A/64/23

United Nations

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2009

General Assembly
Official Records
Sixty-fourth Session
Supplement No. 23

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United Nations • New York, 2009

Note

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ISSN 0255-1217

[30 June 2009]

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Letter of transmittal

[30 June 2009]

Mr. Secretary-General,

I have the honour to transmit herewith to the General Assembly the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/110 of 5 December 2008. The report covers the work of the Special Committee during 2009.

(*Signed*) R. M. Marty M. **Natalegawa**
Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

Chapter I

Establishment, organization and activities of the Special Committee

A. Establishment of the Special Committee

1. The establishment and history of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is covered in detail in paragraphs 2 to 8 of the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee.[1]

2. At its sixty-third session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[2] the General Assembly adopted resolution 63/110 of 5 December 2008, in which it approved the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 2008, and requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the Second International Decade in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence. In addition, the Assembly reaffirmed that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories were an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and called upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate United Nations visiting missions to the Territories, and also called upon all the administering Powers to cooperate fully in the work of the Special Committee and to participate formally in the Committee's future sessions.

3. In addition to resolution 63/110, the General Assembly adopted 10 other resolutions and two decisions relating to specific items considered by the Special Committee in 2008, which are listed below.

1. Resolutions, consensus and decisions concerning specific Territories

Resolutions

Territory	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	58/316[3]	1 July 2004
Western Sahara	63/105	5 December 2008
New Caledonia	63/106	5 December 2008
Tokelau	63/107	5 December 2008

[1] See document A/AC.109/2009/L.1.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/63/23).

Territory	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	63/108 A and B	5 December 2008

* In accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of the annex to resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004, the item should remain on the agenda for consideration upon notification by a Member State.

Decisions

Territory/Title	*Decision number*	*Date of adoption*
Gibraltar	63/525	5 December 2008
Increase in the membership of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	63/526	5 December 2008

2. Resolutions concerning other items

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	63/101	5 December 2008
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	63/102	5 December 2008
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	63/103	5 December 2008
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	63/104	5 December 2008
Dissemination of information on decolonization	63/109	5 December 2008

3. Other resolutions and decisions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

4. Other resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-third session that were relevant to the work of and were taken into consideration by

the Special Committee are listed in a note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2009/L.1).

4. Membership of the Special Committee

5. As at 1 January 2009, the Special Committee was composed of the following 28 members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, China, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Mali, Papua New Guinea, the Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

6. A list of representatives who attended the meetings of the Special Committee in 2009 appears in document A/AC.109/2009/INF/1.

B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 2009 and election of officers

7. The Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management addressed the Special Committee at its 1st meeting, on 27 February 2009. The Chairman made a statement at that meeting. Statements were made by the representatives of Sierra Leone, Congo, Cuba, Papua New Guinea, Syrian Arab Republic and Ecuador (see A/AC.109/2009/SR.1).

8. At the same meeting, the Special Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman:

R. M. Marty M. Natalegawa (Indonesia)

Vice-Chairmen:

Abelardo Moreno Fernández (Cuba)
Rupert S. D. Davies (Sierra Leone)

Rapporteur:

Bashar Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic)

C. Organization of work

9. At its 1st meeting, on 27 February, 2009, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman, the Special Committee decided to maintain its Bureau as the only subsidiary body of the Committee. The Special Committee also decided to adopt the suggestions of the Chairman relating to the allocation of items and the procedure for their consideration (see A/AC.109/2009/L.2). Also at the same meeting, the Chairman made a statement relating to the organization of work (see A/AC 109/2009/SR.1).

10. Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Spain, Thailand and Uruguay participated in the 2009 session of the Special Committee as observers.

D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies

11. In keeping with its resolve to continue taking all possible measures to rationalize the organization of its work, and with the full and close cooperation of its entire membership, the Special Committee and its subsidiary body were again able to keep to a minimum the number of their formal meetings, as indicated below, by holding, whenever possible, informal meetings and extensive consultations through officers of the Special Committee.

1. Special Committee

12. The Special Committee held 11 meetings at Headquarters during 2009, as follows:

(a) First part of the session: 1st meeting, 27 February; 2nd meeting, 6 April.

(b) Second part of the session: 3rd meeting, 8 June; 4th meeting, 9 June; 5th and 6th meetings, 15 June; 7th meeting, 16 June; 8th meeting, 17 June; 9th meeting, 18 June; 10th meeting, 19 June; 11th meeting, 23 June.

13. During the session, the Special Committee considered in plenary meetings the following questions and adopted decisions thereon, as indicated below:

Question	*Meeting*	*Decision*
Dissemination of information on decolonization	3rd	Chap. XII, draft resolution VII
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	3rd	Chap. XII, draft resolution I
Question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories	3rd	Chap. IV, para. 86
Gibraltar	4th	Chap. VIII, para. 108
Special Committee decision of 9 June 2008 concerning Puerto Rico	5th, 6th	Chap. I, para. 23
Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands	10th	Chap. XII, draft resolution VI
Question of Tokelau	11th	Chap. XII, draft resolution V
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	9th	Chap. XI, para. 144
Question of New Caledonia	7th	Chap. XII, draft resolution IV
Western Sahara	7th	Chap. VIII, para. 119

Question	*Meeting*	*Decision*
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	8th	Chap. XII, draft resolution III
Economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	8th	Chap. XII, draft resolution II
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	8th	Chap. XII, draft resolution VIII

2. Subsidiary bodies

Bureau

14. At its 1st meeting, on 27 February 2009, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (see A/AC.109/2009/L.2), the Special Committee decided to maintain its Bureau as the only subsidiary body of the Committee. During the period covered by the present report, the Bureau held eight meetings.

15. At its 11th meeting, on 23 June 2009, following the statement by the Chairman, the Special Committee adopted a report on pending matters related to its work (A/AC.109/2009/L.14), without a vote.

E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

16. At its 1st meeting, on 27 February 2009, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (see A/AC.109/2009/L.2), the Special Committee decided to take the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable as appropriate. In taking that decision, the Special Committee recalled that, in its report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session,[3] it had stated that, subject to any directives that the Assembly might wish to give in that connection, it would continue, as part of its programme of work for 2009, to review the list of Territories to which the Declaration applied. The Special Committee also recalled that, in paragraph 16 of its resolution 63/110, the Assembly had approved the report of the Special Committee, including the programme of work envisaged by the Special Committee for 2009.

17. At its 11th meeting, on 23 June 2009, the Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its sixty-fourth session (see A/AC.109/2009/L.14, para. 11).

[3] Ibid., *Supplement No. 23* (A/63/23), chap. I, para. 21.

Special Committee decision of 9 June 2008 concerning Puerto Rico[4]

18. At its 1st meeting, on 27 February 2009, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (see A/AC.109/2009/L.2), the Special Committee decided to take up as appropriate the item entitled "Special Committee decision of 9 June 2008 concerning Puerto Rico" and to consider it at plenary meetings.

19. At the 3rd and 5th meetings, on 8 and 15 June 2009, the Chairman drew attention to a number of communications received from organizations expressing the wish to be heard on Puerto Rico by the Special Committee. At its 3rd and 5th meetings, the Special Committee agreed to accede to those requests and heard the representatives of the organizations concerned at its 5th and 6th meetings (see A/AC.109/2009/SR.5 and 6), as follows:

(a) *5th meeting*: Arturo L. Hernández González, Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico; Fernando J. Martin, Puerto Rican Independence Party; Jan Susler, People's Law Office; Vanessa Ramos, American Association of Jurists; Jose Castillo, El Partido Nacionalista de Puerto Rico, Movimiento Liberador; Iván A. Rivera Reyes, PROELA; Manuel Rivera, Puertorriqueños Unidos En Acción; Héctor Pasquera Sevillana, Movimiento Independentista Nacional Hostosiano de Puerto Rico; Wilma Reveron Collaza, Comité Puerto Rico en la ONU; Carlos M. Hernandez Lopez, Frente Autonomista; Edgardo Román Espada, Coalición Puertorriqueña contra la Pena de Muerte; Eduardo Villanueva Muñoz, El Comité de Derechos Humanos de Puerto Rico; Ricardo Paret Vélez, Colectivo de Trabajo por la Independencia de Puerto Rico Área de Mayagüez; Leonor Tatil, Soho Art Festival; Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers Party; Nilda Luz Rexach, National Advancement for Puerto Rican Culture and Luis A. Delgado Rodríguez, Alianza pro Libre Asociación Soberana (ALAS);

(b) *6th meeting*: Aleida Centeno-Rodríguez, Frente Patriótico Arecibeño; Héctor J. Ferrer, Popular Democratic Party; Jose Adames, Literary Center Anacaona (CLAHI); Anita Velez-Mitchel, Primavida Incorporated; Anthony Mele, AMI Global Security; Hermenegildo Ortiz Quiñones, Accion Democratica Puertorriqueña; Luis R. Suarez Rivera, DC-6; Jorge L. Limeres, Comité Pro Independencia de Puerto Rico de Connecticut; Tania Frontera, Hostos Grand Jury Resistance Campaign; Santiago Felix, Ministerio Latino; Francisco Velgara, Movimiento de Afirmación Viequense; Myrna V. Pagán, Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques; Giovannia Angelica Acosta Buono, Frente Socialista de Puerto Rico; Angel Rivera, Gran Oriente Nacional of Puerto Rico; Harriet Nesbit, Harriet Nesbit Halfway Houses; Ricardo Santos, Movimiento Socialistas de Trabajadores and Juan González Pedrosa, Comité Familiares y Amigos Avelino González Claudio.

20. At the 5th meeting, on 15 June, the representative of Cuba, also on behalf of Ecuador and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.7 (see A/AC.109/2009/SR.5).

21. At the 6th meeting, on the same day, following statements by the representatives of Dominica (on behalf of the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries), Nicaragua, Panama, Ecuador, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Syrian Arab

[4] Ibid., chap. I, para. 28.

Republic and Islamic Republic of Iran, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.7, without a vote (see A/AC.109/2009/SR.6).

22. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba made a statement (ibid.).

23. Draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.7, adopted by the Special Committee at its 5th meeting, on 15 June 2009, reads as follows:

Special Committee decision of 9 June 2008 concerning Puerto Rico

The Special Committee,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

Considering that the period 1990-2000 was proclaimed by the General Assembly, in its resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and that by resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, the General Assembly declared the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Bearing in mind the 27 resolutions and decisions adopted by the Special Committee on the question of Puerto Rico, contained in the reports of the Special Committee to the General Assembly, in particular those adopted without a vote in recent years,

Recalling that 25 July 2009 marks the one hundred and eleventh anniversary of the intervention in Puerto Rico by the United States of America,

Noting with concern that despite the diverse initiatives taken by the political representatives of Puerto Rico and the United States in recent years, the process of decolonization of Puerto Rico has not yet been set in motion,

Stressing the urgent need for the United States to lay the groundwork for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

Noting that the inter-agency Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status designated by the President of the United States, which submitted its report on 22 December 2005, affirmed that Puerto Rico is a territory subject to United States congressional authority and that initiatives concerning Puerto Rico's status have been subsequently presented to the Congress of the United States,

Also noting the "Panama Proclamation", adopted by the Latin American and Caribbean Congress for the Independence of Puerto Rico, which was held in Panama from 17 to 19 November 2006 and attended by 33 political parties from 22 countries of the region,

Further noting the debate in Puerto Rico on the search for a procedure that would make it possible to launch the process of decolonization of Puerto Rico, and aware of the principle that any initiative for the solution of the political status of Puerto Rico should originate from the people of Puerto Rico,

Aware that Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, was used for over 60 years by the United States Marines to carry out military exercises, with negative consequences

for the health of the population, the environment and the economic and social development of that Puerto Rican municipality,

Recalling the decision of the Government of the United States to put an end to the bombings and military exercises on Vieques Island from 1 May 2003, which was the outcome of the prolonged process conducted during years of peaceful protests carried out by the people of Puerto Rico as well as the wide campaign of international solidarity, which has been appropriately reflected in the work and documents of the Special Committee,

Noting the consensus existing among the people and the Government of Puerto Rico on the necessity of ensuring the clean-up, decontamination and return to the people of Puerto Rico of all the territory previously used for military exercises and installations, and of using them for the social and economic development of Puerto Rico,

Also noting the consensus among the people of Puerto Rico in favour of the release of the Puerto Rican political prisoners, some of whom have been serving sentences in United States prisons for more than 28 years for cases related to the struggle for Puerto Rico's independence,

Further noting the complaints made by the inhabitants of Vieques Island regarding the continued bombing and the use of open burning for clean-up, which exacerbate the existing health problems and pollution and endanger civilian lives,

Noting the concern of the people of Puerto Rico regarding violent actions, including repression and intimidation, against Puerto Rican independence fighters in Puerto Rico, including those that have recently come to light through documents declassified by federal agencies of the United States,

Also noting that in the final document of the Fourteenth Summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Havana from 11 to 16 September 2006, and at other meetings of the Movement, the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence is reaffirmed on the basis of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV); the Government of the United States is urged to assume its responsibility to expedite a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence; the Government of the United States is urged to return the territory and occupied installations on Vieques Island and at the Roosevelt Roads Naval Station to the Puerto Rican people, who constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation; and the General Assembly is urged to actively consider the question of Puerto Rico in all its aspects,

Having heard statements and testimonies representative of various viewpoints among the people of Puerto Rico and their social institutions,

Having considered the report of the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the implementation of the resolutions concerning Puerto Rico,[5]

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the applicability of the fundamental principles of that resolution to the question of Puerto Rico;

[5] A/AC.109/2009/L.13.

2. *Reiterates* that the Puerto Rican people constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation that has its own unequivocal national identity;

3. *Calls upon* the Government of the United States of America to assume its responsibility to expedite a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people fully to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico;

4. *Notes* the broad support of eminent persons, governments and political forces in Latin America and the Caribbean for the independence of Puerto Rico;

5. *Again notes* the debate in Puerto Rico on the implementation of a mechanism that would ensure the full participation of representatives of all viewpoints prevailing in Puerto Rico, aware of the principle that any initiative for the solution of the political status of Puerto Rico should originate from the people of Puerto Rico;

6. *Expresses serious concern* regarding actions carried out against Puerto Rican independence fighters, and encourages the investigation of those actions with the necessary rigour and with the cooperation of the relevant authorities;

7. *Requests* the General Assembly to consider the question of Puerto Rico comprehensively in all its aspects;

8. *Urges* the Government of the United States, in line with the need to guarantee the Puerto Rican people their legitimate right to self-determination and the protection of their human rights, to complete the return of occupied land and installations on Vieques Island and in Ceiba to the people of Puerto Rico; respect fundamental human rights, such as the right to health and economic development; and expedite and cover the costs of the process of cleaning up and decontaminating the impact areas previously used in military exercises through means that do not continue to aggravate the serious consequences of its military activity for the health of the inhabitants of Vieques Island and the environment;

9. *Requests* the President of the United States of America to release Oscar López Rivera and Carlos Alberto Torres, who have been serving sentences in United States prisons for over 28 years, and Avelino González Claudio, all of whom are Puerto Rican political prisoners serving sentences in United States prisons for cases relating to the struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico;

10. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee,[5] in compliance with its resolution of 9 June 2008;

11. *Requests* the Rapporteur to report to the Special Committee in 2010 on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to keep the question of Puerto Rico under continuous review.

F. Consideration of other matters

24. At its 1st meeting, on 27 February 2009, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (see A/AC.109/2009/L.2), the Special Committee decided to consider in plenary meetings the questions of compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on

decolonization, holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters, pattern of conferences and other questions mentioned in paragraphs 25 to 38 below.

1. Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization

25. The Special Committee took into account in its consideration of specific items, a decision listed in paragraph 24 above.

2. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

26. Having regard to its programme of work for 2010, the Special Committee, at its 11th meeting, on 23 June 2009, considered the question of holding meetings away from Headquarters, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) and paragraph 3 (9) of resolution 2621 (XXV), by which the Assembly authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided that it would consider accepting such invitations as might be received in 2010 and that, when particulars of such meetings had become known, it would request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provision in accordance with established procedure (see A/AC.109/2009/L.14, paras. 2 and 3).

3. Pattern of conferences

27. Further recalling the measures it had taken theretofore in that connection, the Special Committee decided to continue to exercise its initiatives in the effective utilization of the limited conference resources and the further reduction of its documentation requirements by circulating communications and information material, as far as possible, in the form of informal notes and aides-memoires in the original language of submission, thus curtailing documentation requirements and accruing considerable savings for the Organization. A list of the documents issued by the Special Committee in 2009 is contained in the annex to the present chapter.

28. At its 11th meeting, on 23 June 2009, the Special Committee considered the item and noted that, during the year, it had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 63/248 of 24 December 2008. By organizing its programme of work effectively and holding extensive consultations, the Committee had striven to keep the number of its formal meetings to a minimum. The Special Committee decided, taking into account its probable workload for 2010, to consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule: (a) Plenary: February/March (as required); June/July (up to 30 meetings: 6-8 meetings a week); (b) Bureau (February-July: 20 meetings). It was understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 2010, review the schedule of meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Special Committee decided, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, to strive, while fulfilling its mandate, to keep its meetings to a minimum (see A/AC.109/2009/L.14, paras. 5 and 7).

4. Control and limitation of documentation

29. At its 11th meeting, on 23 June 2009, the Special Committee considered the question of the control and limitation of documentation and noted that, during the year, it had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979, 39/68 D of 13 December 1984, 51/211 B of 18 December 1996 and 63/248. The Special Committee noted that, in General Assembly resolution 50/206 B of 23 December 1995, the Assembly had approved the recommendation of the Special Committee to replace its verbatim records with summary records. Having reviewed the need for such records, the Special Committee decided to maintain its summary records (see A/AC.109/2009/L.14, paras. 8-10).

5. Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee

30. In compliance with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the delegation of New Zealand, as an administering Power, continued to participate, in accordance with established procedure, in the related work of the Special Committee (see chap. X). The delegation of France also participated in the related work of the Committee on the question of New Caledonia.

31. The delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America did not formally participate in the work of the Special Committee.[6]

32. In a related context, the Special Committee, at its 3rd meeting, on 8 June 2009, adopted a resolution on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. By that resolution, the Special Committee noted with appreciation that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, two missions to observe the referendums in Tokelau were dispatched, in February 2006 and October 2007. It also recalled with satisfaction the cooperation of the United Kingdom, as an administering Power, in facilitating the Special Mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in April 2006 at the request of the territorial Government. It called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by facilitating United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization (see para. 86 below).

6. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

33. At its 11th meeting, on 23 June 2009, the Special Committee considered the question of the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work and decided that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee at Headquarters, as recommended in the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/56/61, annex), should continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation

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[6] For the explanation of their non-participation, see documents A/47/86, A/42/651, annex, and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77.

under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session (see A/AC.109/L.1791, annex, and A/AC.109/L.1804). In that regard, the Special Committee decided to consider the guidelines at its plenary meetings with a view to amending them further, where appropriate (see A/AC.109/2009/L.14, para. 14).

7. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

34. At its 11th meeting, on 23 June 2009, the Special Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. In keeping with its decision of 27 February 2009, the Committee would authorize its Chairman to hold consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in those meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice and on the basis of the principle of rotation, the Chairman would hold consultations with the Bureau members, who, in turn, would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Special Committee also decided that the Chairman would also hold consultations with that member of the Committee whose regional group was not represented in the Bureau. It also decided to recommend that the General Assembly make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 2010 (see A/AC.109/2009/L.14, para. 4).

8. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories

35. The question of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories was considered by the Special Committee at its 11th meeting, on 23 June 2009, in connection with its consideration of the report of the Caribbean regional seminar (see chap. II and annex thereto).

9. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

36. At its 1st meeting, on 27 February 2009, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (see A/AC.109/2009/L.2), and in accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the Assembly and based on practice initiated by the Committee in 2005, the Committee decided to continue to formulate its decisions in General Assembly form and to submit them to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

37. At its 11th meeting, on 23 June 2009, the Special Committee, on the proposal of the Chairman, authorized the Rapporteur to submit directly to the Assembly the report in accordance with established practice and procedure.

10. Other questions

38. At its 1st meeting, on 27 February 2009, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (see A/AC.109/2009/L.2), the Special Committee decided, in its examination of specific Territories, to take into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions and a decision listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the

organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2009/L.1, para. 11). These resolutions and a decision were taken into account during the consideration of specific Territories and other items in plenary meetings.

G. Relations with United Nations bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

39. In connection with the Special Committee's consideration of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and in accordance with paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 63/103 of 5 December 2009 relating to the item, consultations were held between the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee to consider appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly (see E/2009/69). An account of the Special Committee's consideration of the question is set out in chapter VI of the present report.

40. During the year, the Special Committee adopted decisions relating to the extension of assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Those decisions are reflected in recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII).

41. The Special Committee took into account the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council at its ninth session and continued to follow the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

42. Bearing in mind its previous decisions to maintain contact with the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the African Union, the Caribbean Community and the Pacific Islands Forum on a regular basis in order to assist in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, closely followed the work of these intergovernmental organizations.

43. Having regard to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 63/109 and 63/110, the Special Committee continued to follow closely the activities of non-governmental organizations having a special interest in the field of decolonization (see A/AC.109/2009/18 and Corr.1, and para. 19 above). The related decisions of the Special Committee are listed in chapter XII of the present report.

44. The Special Committee continued to monitor related developments in the Territories, having regard to the relevant provisions of article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex).

H. Review of work

45. The reform processes initiated by the Special Committee in 1991 continued to be actively pursued in 2009. The Special Committee's recommendation to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on 12 Territories was consolidated into two resolutions (see chap. XII, draft resolutions V and VI).

46. The Special Committee also considered and submitted recommendations on information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations, the question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories, implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations and economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

47. As noted in chapter II of the present report, the Special Committee held a Caribbean regional seminar in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May 2009 on challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world.

48. On the question of the publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, the Special Committee adopted a resolution on the dissemination of information on decolonization, which it recommends to the General Assembly for action at its sixty-fourth session (see chap. XII, draft resolution VII).

49. The Special Committee also continued its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable. With regard to its decision of 12 June 2008 concerning Puerto Rico, the Special Committee heard a number of representatives of organizations concerned and adopted a resolution on the matter, which is set out in paragraph 23 above.

50. During the period under review, the Special Committee continued the critical review of its work and its programme of future work by holding a number of informal meetings. The Special Committee was able during the year to reduce the number of its formal meetings and to minimize the wastage resulting from the cancellation of scheduled meetings.

I. Future work

51. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly since 1961 and subject to further directives from the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, the Special Committee intends to continue during 2010 to pursue its efforts in bringing a speedy end to colonialism, in accordance with Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the plan of action contained in the annex to document A/56/61.

52. In order to discharge its responsibilities, the Special Committee will keep the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under continuous review, examining the impact of developments concerning each Territory on their political advancement, reviewing the compliance by Member States, particularly the administering Powers, with the relevant decisions and resolutions of the United Nations and seeking the input of representatives of the Territories, non-governmental organizations from the Territories and experts inviting them to attend its meetings and regional seminars and also by visiting the Territories to gather first-hand information.

53. In 2010, the Special Committee intends to continue and intensify its dialogue and cooperation with the administering Powers for the purpose of furthering the

cause of decolonization through the development of programmes of work for the decolonization of specific Territories in agreement with the administering Powers and with the participation of representatives of the Territories at every stage of discussion. The members of the Special Committee are particularly encouraged by the excellent cooperation of New Zealand and Tokelau at every stage of the negotiations including the referendums in the exercise of the right of self-determination by the people of Tokelau held in October 2006 and November 2007.

54. The Special Committee will continue to conduct the regional seminars, for the purpose of assessing, receiving and disseminating information on the situation in the Territories, in order to facilitate the implementation of its mandate. In this connection, the Special Committee will hold a seminar in the Pacific region in 2010.

55. The Special Committee will continue to seek the cooperation of the administering Powers in facilitating United Nations visiting and special missions to the Territories under their administration. The Special Committee continues to attach the utmost importance to visiting missions as a means of collecting adequate and first-hand information on conditions in the Territories and on the wishes and aspirations of the peoples concerning their future status. Moreover, visiting missions are important in the context of action plans for decolonization and observing acts of self-determination. The Special Committee will explore the possibility of combining visiting missions to certain Territories with regional seminars in order to optimize its available resources.

56. The Special Committee will continue to use opportunities such as the regional seminars and visiting and special missions to disseminate information on its activities and on the Territories in an effort to mobilize world public opinion to support and assist the people of the Territories in bringing about a speedy end to colonialism, and to develop, together with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, programmes aimed at Territories that have requested information about self-determination options.

57. The Special Committee will continue to pay attention to the specific problems of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee is aware that, in addition to general problems facing developing countries, those Territories also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragility of ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources and vulnerability to drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal activities, as well as from the current financial crisis. The Special Committee will continue to recommend measures to facilitate a sustained and balanced growth of the fragile economies of those Territories and increased assistance in the development of all the sectors of their economies.

58. It is the intention of the Special Committee to continue to follow closely the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international and regional institutions associated with the United Nations. The Special Committee will continue the practice of holding consultations between its Chairman and the President of the Economic and Social Council with the objective to facilitate the effective implementation of the decisions of the various United Nations bodies and to foster cooperation between the specialized agencies and the regional organizations in providing assistance for the Non-Self-Governing Territories in a given region.

59. The Special Committee will also strive to follow up on the General Assembly's request that the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations be facilitated so that the Territories can benefit from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system.

60. The Special Committee intends to take into account economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue its cooperation with interested States to ensure that the interests of the peoples of those Territories are protected.

61. In the light of the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions concerning the pattern of conferences, and taking into consideration its experience in previous years as well as its probable workload for 2010, the Special Committee has approved a tentative programme of meetings for 2010, which it commends to the Assembly for approval.

62. The Special Committee suggests that, when the General Assembly, at its sixty-fourth session, examines the question of the implementation of the Declaration, it may wish to take into account the various recommendations of the Special Committee that are reflected in the relevant chapters of the present report and, in particular, to endorse the proposals outlined in the present section in order to enable the Special Committee to carry out the tasks it envisages for 2010. The Special Committee recommends that the Assembly renew its appeal to the administering Powers to take all necessary steps for the implementation of the Declaration and the relevant United Nations resolutions, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples of the Territories concerned. In that connection, the Special Committee recommends that the Assembly request those administering Powers that have not yet done so to become involved with the work of the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and, in particular, to participate actively in the work relating to the Territories under their respective administrations. The Special Committee also recommends that the Assembly continue to invite the administering Powers to allow representatives of the Territories concerned to participate in the discussions in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Special Committee on the items relating to their respective Territories. Furthermore, the Assembly might also wish to renew its appeal to all States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to comply with the various requests addressed to them by the Assembly in their relevant resolutions.

63. The Special Committee recommends that, in approving the programme of work outlined above, the General Assembly make adequate provision to cover the activities that the Special Committee envisages for 2010. In that regard, the Special Committee notes that the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 includes resources to provide for the programme of work of the Special Committee for 2010, based on the level of activities approved for 2009, without prejudice to the decisions to be taken by the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session. On that basis, the Special Committee understands that, should any additional provisions be required over and above those included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011, proposals for supplementary requirements would be made to the General Assembly for its approval. Finally, the Special Committee expresses the hope that the Secretary-General will continue to provide it with all the facilities and personnel

necessary for the discharge of its mandate, taking into account the various tasks assigned to it by the Assembly as well as those arising from decisions taken by it during the current year.

J. Conclusion of the 2009 session

64. At its 12th meeting, on 23 June 2009, the Chairman made a statement on the occasion of the closing of the 2009 session of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/2009/SR.12).

Annex

List of documents of the Special Committee, 2009

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
Documents issued in the general series		
A/AC.109/2009/INF/1	List of delegations	June 2009
A/AC.109/2009/1	British Virgin Islands (working paper)	11 February 2009
A/AC.109/2009/2	Tokelau (working paper)	12 February 2009
A/AC.109/2009/3	Pitcairn (working paper)	19 February 2009
A/AC.109/2009/4	American Samoa (working paper)	19 February 2009
A/AC.109/2009/5	Saint Helena (working paper)	23 February 2009
A/AC.109/2009/6	Montserrat (working paper)	26 February 2009
A/AC.109/2009/7	Bermuda (working paper)	2 March 2009
A/AC.109/2009/8	Cayman Islands (working paper)	3 March 2009
A/AC.109/2009/9	New Caledonia (working paper)	31 March 2009
A/AC.109/2009/10	Turks and Caicos Islands (working paper)	10 March 2009
A/AC.109/2009/11	Anguilla (working paper)	10 March 2009
A/AC.109/2009/12	Western Sahara (working paper)	12 March 2009
A/AC.109/2009/13	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (working paper)	18 March 2009
A/AC.109/2009/14	United States Virgin Islands (working paper)	19 March 2009
A/AC.109/2009/15	Gibraltar (working paper)	18 March 2009
A/AC.109/2009/16	Guam (working paper)	23 March 2009
A/AC.109/2009/17	Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Caribbean regional seminar on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world, to be held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May 2009: guidelines and rules of procedure	30 March 2009
A/AC.109/2009/18 and Corr.1	Dissemination of information on decolonization during the period from April 2008 to March 2009: report of the Secretary-General	23 March 2009 25 May 2009

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
Documents issued in the limited series		
A/AC.109/2009/L.1	Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly: note by the Secretary-General	30 December 2008
A/AC.109/2009/L.2	Organization of work: note by the Chairman	30 December 2008
A/AC.109/2009/L.3	Question of New Caledonia: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	12 June 2009
A/AC.109/2009/L.4	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	3 June 2009
A/AC.109/2009/L.5	Dissemination of information on decolonization: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	3 June 2009
A/AC.109/2009/L.6	Question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	3 June 2009
A/AC.109/2009/L.7	Special Committee decision of 14 June 2007 concerning Puerto Rico: draft resolution submitted by Cuba, Ecuador and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	11 June 2009
A/AC.109/2009/L.8	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): draft resolution submitted by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Cuba and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	12 June 2009
A/AC.109/2009/L.9	Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands: consolidated draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	15 June 2009
A/AC.109/2009/L.10	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	9 June 2009
A/AC.109/2009/L.11	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	9 June 2009

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/2009/L.12	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	9 June 2009
A/AC.109/2009/L.13	Special Committee decision of 14 June 2007 concerning Puerto Rico: report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee, Bashar Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic)	17 March 2009
A/AC.109/2009/L.14	Report of the Special Committee	16 June 2009
A/AC.109/2009/L.15	Question of Tokelau: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	17 June 2009

Chapter II

Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

65. At its 1st meeting, on 27 February 2009, the Special Committee, by approving the recommendations of its Chairman on the organization of work of the Special Committee for the year (see A/AC.109/2009/L.2), decided to allocate to plenary meetings of the Special Committee, as appropriate, the question of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

66. The Special Committee considered the questions of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Caribbean regional seminar on challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world at its 1st, 2nd and 11th meetings, on 27 February, 6 April and 22 June 2009.

67. The Special Committee had before it the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Caribbean regional seminar (A/AC.109/2009/17).

68. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 April, following a statement by the Chairman, the Special Committee approved the composition of the official delegation of the Special Committee to the Caribbean regional seminar (see A/AC.109/2009/SR.2).

69. The Special Committee also decided to invite United Nations organs, agencies and institutions to apprise the Secretary-General of actions they had taken in implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/146 and to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, subject to any directives that the Assembly might give at its sixty-fourth session in that regard (see A/AC.109/2008/L.14, para. 13).

70. At its 8th meeting, on 17 June, the Special Committee adopted, without a vote, draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.10, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", submitted by the Chairman.

71. At its 11th meeting, on 23 June 2009, the Chairman of the Special Committee drew attention to the draft report of the Caribbean regional seminar, which had been circulated to members of the Special Committee as a conference room paper (A/AC.109/2009/CRP.1) (see A/AC.109/2009/SR.11).

72. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft report of the Caribbean regional seminar and decided to annex it to its report to the General Assembly. The full text of the report of the Caribbean regional seminar is contained in the annex to the present chapter.

73. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.10 adopted by the Special Committee at its 8th meeting, on 17 June 2009, appears in the present report, in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution VIII).

Annex

Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world, held in Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 May to 14 May 2009

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, the General Assembly declared the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action set out in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1), updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second Decade. The report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/56/61) contains an updated plan of action.

2. In its resolution 63/110 of 5 December 2008, the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples envisaged for 2009, including the holding of a seminar in the Caribbean region to be organized by the Special Committee and attended by the representatives of all the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

3. The objective of this seminar was to enable the Special Committee to hear the views of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, experts, members of civil society, and other stakeholders in the process of decolonization. It assessed the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including follow-up to the 2008 Pacific regional seminar, and aimed at identifying policy approach and practical ways of dealing with the challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in a changing world. The seminar also assessed the constitutional evolution of the Non-Self-Governing Territories towards self-government and self-determination with a view to developing, in cooperation with the Administering Powers and representatives of the Territories, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Furthermore, the seminar aimed to further identify areas in which the United Nations system and the international community at large could enhance programmes of assistance to territories within an integral framework, particularly to ensure the sustainable socio-economic development of the territories concerned.

4. The seminar also aimed to assess the progress achieved thus far in the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Second International Decade on the Eradication of Colonialism as it is coming to an end, and to identify priority actions for the remaining year of the decade as well as possible approaches and priorities beyond 2010.

5. The contributions of the participants would serve as a basis for further consideration of the Special Committee at its substantive session in June 2009, with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

II. Organization of the seminar

6. The seminar was held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 May to 14 May 2009. It held 5 meetings, in which representatives of States Members of the United Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers, non-governmental, regional and other organizations and experts took part. (For the

list of participants, see appendix I to the present annex.) The seminar was organized to encourage an open and frank exchange of views.

7. The seminar was conducted by R. M. Marty M. Natalegawa, Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations and Chairman of the Special Committee, with the participation of the following members of the Special Committee: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Cuba, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis (host country), Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, administering Powers, participated as observers. Representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Morocco, Spain, Togo and the Permanent Observer of the Holy See also participated.

8. At the 1st meeting, on 12 May 2009, Javier Loayza Barea (Plurinational State of Bolivia) and Rupert Davies (Sierra Leone) were appointed Vice-Chairmen of the seminar. Albert V. Sitnikov (Russian Federation) was appointed Rapporteur of the seminar.

9. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. Challenges and opportunities in today's world:
   - (a) Dynamics of a changing world;
   - (b) Strengthening cooperation with administering Powers;
   - (c) The role of the Special Committee in facilitating enhanced outreach to and participation of the people of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the United Nations decolonization process.
2. Challenges and opportunities for the decolonization process of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region.
3. Challenges and opportunities for the decolonization process of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region and other Territories:
   - (a) Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region, including follow-up to the 2008 Pacific regional seminar;
   - (b) Other Non-Self-Governing Territories.
4. Role of the United Nations system in providing developmental assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories:
   - (a) Presentations by the United Nations Development Programme and others;
   - (b) Perspective of the Special Committee, administering Powers, and territorial Governments, as well as views of experts.
5. The way forward:
   - (a) Priorities for the remainder of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;
   - (b) Possible approach and priorities beyond the Second International Decade.

III. Proceedings of the seminar

A. Opening of the seminar

10. On 12 May, R. M. Marty M. Natalegawa (Indonesia) opened the seminar in his capacity as the Chairman (see appendix III).

11. At the same meeting, Astona Browne, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of National Security, Immigration and Foreign Affairs of Saint Kitts and Nevis addressed the seminar.

12. Also at the same meeting, Michael M. Streitz, Senior Political Affairs Officer of the Decolonization Unit, Department of Political Affairs, United Nations Secretariat, read out a message from the Secretary-General (see appendix II).

B. Statements and discussions[a]

13. At the 1st meeting, on 12 May, the Chairman made a statement (see appendix III). The representatives of Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands made statements.

14. At the same meeting, the representatives of Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands responded to the questions posed by the representatives of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba and Indonesia. The representatives of Côte d'Ivoire and Indonesia made statements.

15. At the 2nd meeting, on 12 May, the seminar heard presentations by experts: Jessica Byron, Carlyle Corbin and Sophia Harris on the recent developments in Anguilla, Montserrat, United States Virgin Islands and Cayman Islands. Lana Hoyoung (Anguilla National Council of Women) made a presentation on the role of women in the decolonization process. Representatives of Togo and Côte d'Ivoire made statements.

16. At the 3rd meeting, on 13 May, Tregenza A. Roach (United States Virgin Islands University) presented a comparative analysis of the constitutional convention process in American Samoa and the United States Virgin Islands. At the same meeting, representatives of Saint Helena, Frente Polisario, Argentina, Spain, Morocco and Algeria made statements. Representatives of Algeria, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire and Morocco made statements on a point of order. The representative of Morocco made a statement in the exercise of the right of reply. The observer of Gibraltar made a statement.

17. At the 4th meeting, on 13 May, the seminar heard a presentation by the representative of the subregional headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on the role of the United Nations system in providing developmental assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories. The representative of the World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization made a statement. Representatives of Morocco and Algeria made statements on a point of order. Representatives of ECLAC and WHO/PAHO responded to the questions posed by the representatives of Cuba, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bermuda, Brazil and Indonesia.

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[a] All statements and discussion papers of the seminar are available on the United Nations decolonization website, http://www.un.org/Depts/dpi/decolonization.

18. At its 5th meeting, on 14 May, the seminar held a general exchange of views on the way forward for the Special Committee, including priorities for the remainder of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and possible approaches and priorities beyond the Second International Decade.

C. Closing of the seminar

19. At the 5th meeting on 14 May, the Rapporteur of the seminar presented the draft report of the seminar proceedings.

20. At the same meeting, Delano Frank Bart, Permanent Representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis to the United Nations addressed the seminar, followed by closing remarks by the Chairman (see appendix IV).

21. Also at the same meeting, the participants adopted by acclamation a draft resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Saint Kitts and Nevis (see appendix V).

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

22. Members of the Special Committee participating in the seminar (henceforth referred to as "participating members") recalled the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the role of the Special Committee to examine the application of the Declaration, to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration, and to report to the General Assembly.

23. Participating members reaffirmed the continued relevance of the conclusions and recommendations of the previous seminars.

24. In addition, pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar (A/AC.109/2009/17, annex), participating members presented the following conclusions and recommendations at the substantive session of the Special Committee:

A. Challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world

25. As their concluding observations, participating members:

(a) Identified a number of cross-cutting issues in the process of decolonization in a changing world, including the impact of climate change, the global economic and financial crisis, the role of regional cooperation, education and public awareness, the role of women, the empowerment of vulnerable people, and the capacity for full self-governance towards self-determination;

(b) Acknowledged that climate change had exposed many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly the small island Territories, to even greater environmental and economic vulnerability, and that the ongoing global economic and financial crisis had highlighted the importance of the economic sustainability and diversification of the economic base in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(c) Welcomed the important role played by regional organizations and regional arrangements in assisting many Non-Self-Governing Territories in coping with various emerging challenges;

(d) Underscored the fact that education and public awareness remain crucial elements for decolonization, particularly to ensure that the peoples concerned would be in a position to make an informed decision regarding their future political status in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

(e) Stressed the important role of women in the process of decolonization, including in education, poverty eradication and community empowerment;

(f) Underscored the fact that status-related and/or constitutional review exercises in many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories were delicate processes that should meet certain expectations on a case-by-case basis;

(g) Recognized that enhanced interactions and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers remain crucial to the implementation of the United Nations decolonization mandate and would be beneficial to all stakeholders, including the administering Powers themselves, and in this connection welcomed the participation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island and the United States of America in the seminar;

(h) Recognized also the importance of active engagement from other States Members of the United Nations who are not members of the Special Committee in the work of the Special Committee, and in this connection welcomed the participation of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Morocco, Spain, and Togo, as well as the Permanent Observer of the Holy See, in the seminar.

B. Challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region

26. As their concluding observations, participating members:

(a) Welcomed the participation of the representatives of Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands and the information they furnished to the seminar, and also welcomed the participation of experts as well as representatives of civil society who shared their views on the process of decolonization in Anguilla, Montserrat, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Cayman Islands;

(b) With regard to the current constitutional situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands, took note of the information furnished to the seminar by the Premier of the Territory, and called for full respect for the constitutional arrangement of the territorial Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands;

(c) With regard to the process of Constitutional review in Anguilla, stressed the need for taking into account the consent and wishes of the inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territory in drafting the new constitution.

C. Challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region and other Territories, including follow-up to the 2008 Pacific Regional Seminar

27. As their concluding observations, participating members:

(a) Welcomed the participation of the representatives of St. Helena and Western Sahara as well as the observer of Gibraltar in the seminar and the information they furnished to the seminar, and also welcomed the participation of a civil society representative who shared his views on the process of decolonization in American Samoa;

(b) Expressed their appreciation for the written statements submitted by the Ulu-o-Tokelau and New Zealand as administering Power of Tokelau to the seminar;

(c) With regard to Western Sahara, the participants recalled the mandate of the Special Committee towards self-determination for the people of Western Sahara, reaffirmed all relevant General Assembly resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 63/105. They supported Security Council resolutions 1754 (2007), 1783 (2007), 1813 (2008) and 1871 (2009) and the commitment of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to a solution to the question of Western Sahara in this context. They called upon the parties to continue to show political will and work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue in order to enter into a more intensive and substantive phase of negotiations, thus ensuring implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions and the success of the negotiations. They reiterated the call made at previous regional seminars on the parties to continue such negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith, taking into account efforts made since 2006 and subsequent developments, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations;

(d) With regard to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), recalled the relevant General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions and decisions on this question, which encouraged the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom with the aim of finding a lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute, taking into account the interests of the population of the Islands, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(e) With regard to the question of Gibraltar, welcomed the continuing work of the Forum of Dialogue on Gibraltar involving Spain, the United Kingdom and the territorial Government.

D. Role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories

28. As their concluding observations, participating members:

(a) Welcomed the participation of the representative of the United Nations-ECLAC and WHO/PAHO at the seminar and the information they furnished to the seminar;

(b) Encouraged the United Nations specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their engagement with the work of the Special Committee, including possible participation at the forthcoming regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Special Committee.

E. The way forward: priorities for the remainder of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and possible approaches and priorities beyond the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

29. As their recommendations, participating members:

(a) Reaffirm that all peoples have the right to self-determination; by virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

(b) Also reaffirm that any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) Reconfirm that the United Nations has a valid ongoing role in the process of decolonization. The mandate of the Special Committee is a major programme of the Organization. United Nations support should be provided until all outstanding decolonization issues are resolved in a satisfactory manner;

(d) Reaffirm the role of the Special Committee as the primary vehicle for fostering the process of decolonization as well as for monitoring the situation in the Territories;

(e) Underline the importance for the Special Committee to develop, as a matter of urgency, a proactive and focused approach, in fulfilment of the goal of decolonization vis-à-vis the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the United Nations list. The Special Committee needs to approach each case with an open mind, to build on the available options and to bring about a results-oriented evolution of positions to help move the decolonization process forward. It also needs to look more thoroughly at how to further operationalize the United Nations decolonization mandate;

(f) In view of the cross-cutting nature of the challenges faced by many Non-Self-Governing Territories in the dynamics of today's world, underline that efforts must be made, through the involvement of relevant stakeholders and on a case-by-case basis, for the continued strengthening of administrative capacity, good governance and economic sustainability of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which would allow the Territories to address the cross-cutting issues in a holistic manner;

(g) In view of the economic vulnerability brought about by climate change and the global economic and financial crisis, suggest that the relevant stakeholders, particularly the territorial Governments and the administering Powers, step up their attention to community-based sustainable development, including the development of small and medium businesses, the promotion of micro-financing and employment-generating activities, and the empowerment of vulnerable groups in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(h) In view of the contribution of various regional organizations and regional arrangements to the capacity-building of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in

coping with emerging challenges, advise that effective participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in relevant regional organizations and regional arrangements needs to be facilitated, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and through the appropriate mechanisms, along with the strengthening of concrete regional functional cooperation in various areas, such as natural-disaster preparedness and community empowerment;

(i) Also in view of the important role of regional organizations and regional arrangements in providing assistance to the relevant Non-Self-Governing Territories in support of the process of decolonization, suggest that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate and the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, strengthen its interactions and collaboration with relevant regional and subregional organizations;

(j) On the issue of public outreach to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on decolonization issues, advise the Special Committee, in collaboration with the Department of Public Information, to actively engage and seek new and innovative ways to promote a public awareness campaign aimed at fostering an understanding among the people of the Territories of the options for self-determination in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including to complement their ongoing efforts and ensuring that the information provided effectively reaches the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(k) On the issue of education, suggest that the relevant territorial Governments and the administering Powers consider incorporating decolonization issues into the school curriculum of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(l) In view of the important role of women in the process of decolonization, underline the fact that gender equality must continue to be supported, which will contribute to good governance and enhanced capacity for self-governance through equal rights for all;

(m) On the status-related and/or constitutional review exercises and the overall process of decolonization, stress that such processes should be approached on a case-by-case basis and in a way that is respectful of human rights, transparent, accountable, inclusive and participatory with the involvement of the people concerned, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions on decolonization and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(n) On the relationship with administering Powers, advise that interactions and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers should continue to be nurtured and strengthened through various possible platforms and means, and reaffirm that all administering Powers, particularly those who have not done so, need to engage effectively with the Special Committee;

(o) In view of the valuable contribution of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the seminar, reiterate that the Special Committee, through the proper mechanism and with the assistance of the Secretariat, should continue to work towards full participation of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in future seminars. The administering Powers should facilitate the participation of the elected representatives of the Territories in the seminars in conformity with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations;

(p) On the role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, stress that the relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies need to engage with the work of the Special Committee and to strengthen their efforts, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and through the appropriate mechanism, in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In this regard, the Special Committee needs to develop ways and means to encourage the participation of those agencies and bodies;

(q) Advise the Special Committee that it needs to develop ways and means through which it can make a better assessment, on a case-by-case basis, of the current stage of decolonization and self-determination in each Non-Self-Governing Territory in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, which could serve as a checklist or benchmark on the progress thus far and how much is left to be done;

(r) Reiterate that the Special Committee needs to continue working towards sending visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, with the involvement of the relevant territorial Government and administering Power, on a case-by-case basis, and in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. In this regard, notes the interest expressed at the seminar by representatives of Non-Self Governing Territories in such visiting and special missions;

(s) Suggest that the Special Committee needs to consider proposing to the General Assembly the possibility of launching a Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, reaffirming that the process of decolonization is incomplete until all the outstanding decolonization issues are resolved in a satisfactory manner.

Appendix I

List of participants

Members of the Special Committee

Indonesia	R. M. Marty M. Natalegawa (Chairman)* Mohamed Hery Saripudin Hari Prabowo
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Javier Loayza Barea* (Vice-Chairperson)
Chile	José Antonio Cousiño
Côte d'Ivoire	Ennio Maes
Cuba	Rebeca Hernández Toledano*
Fiji	Murray Isimeli*
Russian Federation	Albert V. Sitnikov* (Rapporteur)
Saint Kitts and Nevis (host country)	Astona Browne Delano Frank Bart Kaye Bass Carlisle Richardson Shelly Ross-Chaderton Sheila Morris Angelica Elliott
Sierra Leone	Rupert Davies* (Vice-Chairperson) Victoria Sulimani
United Republic of Tanzania	Ellen Azaria Maduhu*
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	Cruz de Jesus Bello Wilma James Soriyul Alvarado Rodriguez

States Members of the United Nations

Algeria	Mohamed Sofiane Berrah
Argentina	Gerardo Abel Diaz Bartolomé Cinthia Echavarria
Brazil	Christiano Sávio Barros Figueirôa
Morocco	Redouane Houssaini Sidi Khaddad el Moussaoui Moulay Ahmed Mghizlat
Spain	Alberto Virella
Togo	Kouméalo Anaté Balli

* Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

Administering Powers

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (observer)	Simon Hosking
United States of America (observer)	Basil C. Ottley

Permanent observer

Holy See	Rev. Simón Bolivar Sánchez Carrión Michael James

Intergovernmental organizations

African Union	Ahmed Elobeid

Non-Self-Governing Territories

Anguilla	Lolita Davis-Richardson
Bermuda	Walton Brown Jr. Judith Hall-Bean
British Virgin Islands	Vernon Malone
Montserrat	Lowell Lewis Elijah Silcott
Saint Helena	Tony Green
Turks and Caicos	Galmo W. Williams Mark A. Fulford
Western Sahara	Ahmed Boukhari

Organizations of the United Nations system

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Ronald Williams
World Health Organization/ Pan American Health Organization	Anneke Wilson

Non-governmental organizations

Anguilla National Council of Women (Anguilla)	Lana Connor Hoyoung
University of the United States Virgin Islands (United States Virgin Islands)	Tregenza A. Roach

Experts

Jessica Byron (Saint Kitts and Nevis)

Carlyle Corbin (United States Virgin Islands)

Sophia Harris (Cayman Islands)

Observer

Joseph Bossano (Gibraltar)

Appendix II

Message from the Secretary-General

It gives me great pleasure to convey my greetings to all who have gathered in St. Kitts and Nevis for the 2009 Caribbean Regional seminar on decolonization. I thank the Government and people of St. Kitts and Nevis for hosting this event.

This seminar gives the Special Committee on decolonization an opportunity to examine the progress made in the implementation of the principles contained in the United Nations Charter relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The right to self-determination must be taken into proper account as we explore how to accelerate the decolonization process for the remaining 16 Territories under the Committee's purview.

I commend the Committee for deciding to look at the challenges and opportunities for the decolonization process within the dynamics of a changing world. The global economic crisis poses a direct threat to many economies in the Territories, including through its negative effect on tourism, a major source of income. The potentially devastating impact of climate change is also of urgent concern, particularly as many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories are small islands.

Progress in discharging the decolonization mandate of the Special Committee on Decolonization will require close cooperation between the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the administering Powers and the Special Committee. The interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories must be at the heart of our efforts. I count on the administering Powers in particular to discharge their obligations in a manner that promotes the well-being of the inhabitants of the territories within their responsibility. The United Nations system will continue to offer assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories as appropriate, in areas such as economic and social development, environmental sustainability, health care and good governance.

As we approach the end of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, I urge you to continue working together to find solutions for the completion of the decolonization process, with the aim of de-listing additional territories. The United Nations Secretariat stands ready to assist. In that spirit of partnership, I wish you a productive and successful seminar.

Appendix III

Opening statement by the Chair

I would like to welcome all participants to the 2009 United Nations Caribbean regional seminar on decolonization in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, convened under the auspices of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

On behalf of the Special Committee, I would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the Government and people of Saint Kitts and Nevis for hosting the seminar.

We are delighted that this year's seminar is taking place in a country and region that have undertaken tireless efforts to eradicate colonialism, with a good measure of success.

Our host country, Saint Kitts and Nevis, along with other Caribbean States, has always played an active and much appreciated role in the work of the Special Committee.

The seminar is an essential part of the work of the Special Committee as well as the implementation of the Second International Decade. It has a strong symbolic significance as it is held in the month during which the Special Committee observes the week of solidarity with the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. It has a clear deliberative value, as a forum where views are exchanged in an informal and interactive manner on how to make progress in the area of decolonization.

As we are approaching the very end of the Second Decade, this seminar has a further fundamental importance for the Special Committee to seek fresh and innovative ideas and recommendations to implement the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly.

This year's theme topic, "Challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world", bears an important message: we need to contemplate on how to meet contemporary challenges, consistent with the United Nations and the Special Committee's core principles and resolutions on decolonization.

This theme was chosen as a logical follow-up to last year's seminar.

Last year, at the 2008 Pacific regional seminar in Bandung, Indonesia, in addition to the topical focus on the decolonization process in the Pacific region, we sought to find ways and means to improve cooperation with administering Powers, provide better information to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories about their status, and identify practical steps to implement the United Nations decolonization mandate on a case-by-case basis.

This year, in addition to taking a closer look at the decolonization process in the Caribbean region, we seek ways to enhance the Special Committee's relevance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the dynamics of a changing world.

We look forward to hear your views on how current global challenges, such as climate change, global economic crisis, and global food crisis, may have affected the path towards decolonization.

We are keen to hear your views about how improved access to education and information technology, as well as improved understanding of constitutional rights, may have brought up new opportunities in the process of decolonization.

We are delighted to see a large turnout at this year's seminar. On behalf of the Special Committee, I would like to welcome the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers, other United Nations Member States, as well as experts and representatives of civil society, at this seminar. We look forward to having fruitful and constructive discussions with all of you.

This is where the seminar has an essential, deliberative role: the more creative and innovative we are in the next few days, the more the seminar's deliberations hold promise to identify opportunities for the effective implementation of the United Nations decolonization mandate. This includes improved cooperation of administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee; and the promotion of tangible support and assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to help them face the numerous challenges in today's world.

In this spirit, let us deliberate, even debate, and work together towards a fruitful outcome of the seminar.

It is therefore a great honour for me to declare the 2009 Caribbean Regional seminar on decolonization open.

Appendix IV

Closing statement by the Chair

On behalf of the Special Committee, I should like to, again, express our sincere thanks to the Government and people of Saint Kitts and Nevis for hosting the 2009 regional seminar on decolonization.

I would also like to thank all the participants for making valuable contributions, in written and oral presentations, including from the territorial Governments, the administering Powers, experts and civil society representatives. As in the past, written presentations that are made available to the Secretariat will be posted on the United Nations decolonization website.

We have had good, constructive discussions on a number of important issues on how to move the decolonization process forward for the Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis and in the context of a changing world.

We discussed various emerging challenges which could affect the Non-Self-Governing Territories in their path towards decolonization.

Not least, we discussed the opportunities that might be available in responding to these challenges.

Along this line, we discussed, among others, issues related to the impact of climate change, the global economic and financial crisis; as well as the role of regional cooperation, education and public awareness, the role of women, the empowerment of vulnerable people, and the capacity for full self-governance towards self-determination.

Without seeking to summarize the wealth of the discussions that we had, I would like to recall a number of salient points, especially those of a cross-cutting nature. They include the following:

In fostering a better understanding of decolonization issues and status-related questions, we should not overlook the value of comparative analysis. Notwithstanding the fact that decolonization needs to be approached on a case-by-case basis, comparative assessment could help us in drawing valuable lessons-learned for our common benefits.

Political maturity, economic sustainability, enhanced administrative capacity and strengthened regional cooperation are important elements for the Non-Self-Governing Territories in responding to the challenges of today's world. The cross-cutting nature of such challenges requires that these elements be approached in a holistic and mutually reinforcing manner.

For example, in response to the challenges of climate change, which have exposed many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to even greater environmental and economic vulnerability, regional cooperation can play a crucial role through various forms of functional and technical cooperation, such as in the field of disaster preparedness. This, in turn, may also contribute to enhancing the capacity of the Non-Self-Governing Territories for full self-governance.

Indeed, regional cooperation and regional arrangements have offered and should continue to offer important opportunities for many Non-Self-Governing Territories in coping with various emerging challenges. They contribute to the

development of a strong regional identity and the strengthening of concrete functional cooperation in various areas of mutual interests.

We recognize the important role that the United Nations regional commissions such as ECLAC and other regional organizations such as CARICOM and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States can play in facilitating sustainable development in many Non-Self-Governing Territories. The importance of enhanced engagement and role of the United Nations specialized agencies was underscored.

We also discussed the impacts of the global economic and financial crisis on the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The crisis has further highlighted the importance of economic sustainability and diversification of the economic base in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The relevant territorial Government and administering Power may approach this by stepping up their attention to some areas of community-based development, including the development of small and medium-size enterprises, the promotion of micro-financing and employment-generating activities, and the empowerment of vulnerable groups.

Education and public outreach remains a crucial element for decolonization. This is particularly relevant to enable the people concerned to make an informed decision regarding their future political status. In this context it is also worth noting that various deliberations on decolonization and status-related exercises in the Territories should connect, in a meaningful way, to the reality on the ground and to the people concerned themselves.

There was recognition of the important role played by women in the process of decolonization, including through their active involvement in education, poverty eradication, and community empowerment. Gender equality contributes significantly to good governance and enhanced capacity for self-governance through equal rights for all.

We had illuminating discussions, structured on a case-by-case basis, about the situation of self-governance and self-determination in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. We also had an extensive exchange of views on the status-related exercises in various Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Status-related and constitution exercises is a delicate issue that needs to meet certain expectations. It needs to be approached in a transparent, accountable, inclusive and participatory manner, with the involvement of the people concerned. It needs to be in line with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions on decolonization. It needs to adhere to human rights standards and the principles of good governance and democracy. It needs to build upon the identity, cultural norms, and local values of the Non-Self-Governing Territory concerned. Again, education and public outreach can be crucial for this.

We also had a frank exchange of views about how the Special Committee could enhance its capacity to better understand the situation on the ground in each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and also for the Special Committee to be more proactive in its approach. We need to look into ways and means of better assessing, on a case-by-case basis, the current stage of decolonization and self-determination in each Non-Self-Governing Territory and how much is left to be done. We need to look more thoroughly at how to further operationalize the United Nations decolonization mandate. We also need to continue working towards the

possibility of sending visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis and with the involvement of the relevant territorial Government and administering Power.

Indeed, enhanced interaction and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers remain crucial to the implementation of the United Nations decolonization mandate. This will be beneficial to all parties, particularly the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In this context, we may need to explore the possibility of creating frameworks for talks, whether informal or formal in nature, bilateral or multi-stakeholders in nature, involving the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the administering Powers, and the Special Committee.

We had valuable discussions on the way forward, about which several ideas were presented. It is worth noting that, in any case, the underlying principle for the way forward is how to enhance the Special Committee's relevance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Indeed, that is also the main purpose of this seminar: how to enhance the Special Committee's relevance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. I believe it is fair for me to say that we have had productive discussions on this. I believe it is fair for me to conclude that we have managed to organize a comparatively more interactive seminar this year.

This is not the end, nevertheless. Members of the Special Committee who are participating at this seminar will need to provide the Special Committee with their conclusions and recommendations. Let us, members of the Special Committee who are participating at the seminar, make the most of this opportunity to come up with sound conclusions and recommendations.

Appendix V

Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Saint Christopher and Nevis[a]

The participants in the Caribbean regional seminar,

Having met from 12 to 14 May 2009 in Frigate Bay, Saint Christopher and Nevis, to consider the challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world,

Having heard an important statement by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of National Security, Immigration and Foreign Affairs of Saint Kitts and Nevis,

Taking note of the important statements by the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Express their profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Saint Kitts and Nevis for providing the Special Committee with the necessary facilities for its seminar, for the outstanding contribution they have made to the success of the seminar and, in particular, for the very generous and kind hospitality and the warm and cordial reception accorded to the participants throughout their stay in Saint Kitts and Nevis.

[a] The official name of the country is used interchangeably as Saint Christopher and Nevis and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Chapter III
Dissemination of information on decolonization

74. The Special Committee considered the question of dissemination of information on decolonization at its 3rd meeting, on 8 June 2009.

75. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, resolution 63/109 on the dissemination of information on decolonization and resolution 63/110 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

76. The Special Committee held consultations with representatives of the Department of Public Information and of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat at its 3rd meeting, on 8 June (see A/AC.109/2009/SR.3).

77. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Special Committee drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the dissemination of information on decolonization (A/AC.109/2009/18 and Corr.1) and a draft resolution on the item submitted by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2009/L.5).

78. At the same meeting also, the Secretary brought the attention of the Special Committee to a technical correction in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution by which the words "to empower" would be replaced by the word "through" and the words "actively engage and seek new and innovative ways" would be inserted before the words "disseminate material" on the last line of that paragraph. The Committee adopted the draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.5, as technically corrected, without a vote.

79. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.5, adopted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 8 June 2009, appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution VII).

Chapter IV
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories

80. The Special Committee considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories at its 3rd meeting, on 8 June 2009.

81. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, the pertinent provisions of resolution 63/110 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and resolutions 63/108 A and B and 63/107 of 5 December 2008 relating to specific Territories.

82. In addition, the Special Committee considered the specific Territories referred to it, taking into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 63/109 and 63/110, as well as previous decisions of the Special Committee relating to the question.

83. At the 3rd meeting, on 8 June 2009, the Chairman drew attention to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2009/L.6) (see A/AC.109/2009/SR.3).

84. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.6, without a vote.

85. By adopting at its 10th meeting, on 19 June 2009, a consolidated resolution on 11 small Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2009/L.9) and at its 11th meeting, on 23 June 2009, a resolution on Tokelau (A/AC.109/2009/L.15), the Special Committee endorsed a number of conclusions and recommendations concerning the sending of visiting and special missions to Territories, as reflected in its recommendations to the General Assembly (see also chap. XII, draft resolutions V and VI).

86. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.6 adopted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 8 June 2009, reads as follows:

Question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories,

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and

in the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[7]

Recalling with satisfaction the dispatch of two United Nations missions to observe the referendums in Tokelau, in February 2006 and October 2007, at the invitation of New Zealand as the administering Power,[8]

Recalling with satisfaction also the cooperation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, in facilitating the United Nations special mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in April 2006[9] at the request of the territorial Government,

Recalling the importance of the previously expressed desire of the territorial Governments of American Samoa and of Anguilla for a visiting mission by the Special Committee,

1. *Stresses* the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization and the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;[7]

2. *Calls upon* the administering Powers that have not yet done so to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by facilitating United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

3. *Requests* the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee in exploring the possibility of undertaking visiting or special missions in furtherance of the decolonization mandate of the General Assembly;

4. *Requests* its Chair to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned and to report thereon to the Special Committee on the results of those consultations.

[7] A/56/61, annex.

[8] See A/AC.109/2006/20 and A/AC.109/2007/19.

[9] See A/AC.109/2007/5.

Chapter V

Economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

87. The Special Committee considered the question of economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at its 8th meeting, on 17 June 2009.

88. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including, in particular, resolution 63/102 of 5 December 2008 on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and resolution 63/110 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Additionally, the Special Committee took into consideration the relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the last preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.12, adopted on 17 June 2009.

89. At the 8th meeting, on 17 June 2008, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2009/L.12) (see A/AC.109/2009/SR.8).

90. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.12, without a vote.

91. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.12, adopted by the Special Committee at its 8th meeting, on 17 June 2009, appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution II).

Chapter VI

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

92. The Special Committee considered the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations at its 8th meeting, on 17 June 2009.

93. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 63/103 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, in paragraph 23 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session. The Special Committee also took into account all other resolutions adopted by the Assembly on the subject, including resolution 55/146 declaring the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, as well as the reports of the Secretary-General on the Second Decade (A/56/61 and A/60/71 and Add.1).

94. The Special Committee also took into account the relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the fifth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.11.

95. At the 8th meeting, on 17 June 2009, the Chairman drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/64/62) and to the information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration (see E/2009/69), as well as to the draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2009/L.11).

96. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.11, without a vote.

97. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.11, adopted by the Special Committee at its 8th meeting, on 17 June 2009, appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution III).

Chapter VII

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

98. The Special Committee considered the question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations at its 3rd meeting, on 8 June 2009.

99. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the resolutions of the General Assembly concerning information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter and related questions, in particular resolution 1970 (XVIII), by which the Assembly decided, inter alia, to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and to transfer certain of its functions to the Special Committee, and resolution 63/101 of 5 December 2008, in paragraph 4 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures. Furthermore, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 63/110 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and resolution 55/146 relating to the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

100. At the 3rd meeting, on 8 June 2008, the Chairman drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/64/67), which reflected the dates of transmission of information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations by the administering Powers in regard to Territories under their respective administration, as well as to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2009/L.4).

101. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.4, without a vote.

102. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.4 adopted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 8 June 2009, appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution I).

Chapter VIII
Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Western Sahara

103. In its consideration of the questions of Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Western Sahara, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolutions 63/105 and 63/106 of 5 December 2008 and decision 63/525 of the same date, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

A. Gibraltar

104. The Special Committee considered the question of Gibraltar at its 4th meeting, on 9 June 2009.

105. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2009/15).

106. At the 4th meeting, on 9 June, the representative of Spain made a statement (see A/AC.109/2009/SR.4).

107. At the same meeting, in accordance with a decision taken at the 3rd meeting, a statement was made by Joseph Bossano, Leader of the Opposition in Gibraltar (ibid.).

108. On the proposal of the Chair, the Special Committee decided to continue consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its sixty-fourth session and in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

B. New Caledonia

109. The Special Committee considered the question of New Caledonia at its 7th meeting, on 16 June 2009.

110. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2009/9).

111. At the 7th meeting, on 16 June, the Chairman drew the attention of the members of the Committee to the working paper on the item and to the text of a draft resolution contained in document A/AC.109/2009/L.3 (see A/AC.109/2009/SR.7).

112. At the same meeting, the representative of Fiji, also on behalf of Papua New Guinea introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.3 (ibid.).

113. Also at the same meeting, following the statement by the representative of Papua New Guinea, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.3, without a vote.

114. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.3 adopted by the Special Committee at its 7th meeting, on 16 June 2009, appears in the present report in the

form of the recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution IV).

C. Western Sahara

115. The Special Committee considered the question of Western Sahara at its 7th meeting, on 16 June 2009.

116. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2009/12).

117. At its 7th meeting, on 16 June 2009, in accordance with a decision taken at the 3rd meeting, the Special Committee granted a request for hearing to Ahmed Boukhari of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario), who made a statement at the same meeting (see A/AC.109/2009/SR.7).

118. At the same meeting, the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania, Cuba, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Côte d'Ivoire made statements (see A/AC.109/2009/SR.7).

119. At the same meeting also, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Special Committee decided, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its sixty-fourth session and in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

Chapter IX

American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

120. The Special Committee considered the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands at its 10th meeting, on 19 June 2009.

121. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 63/110 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant resolutions and decisions on the Territories adopted by the Assembly.

122. The delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, the administering Powers concerned, did not participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the Territories under their administration.

123. The Special Committee considered the 11 Territories at its 10th meeting, on 19 June 2009.

124. During its consideration of the items, the Special Committee had before it the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on the Territories (A/AC.109/2009/1, 3-8, 11, 14 and 16).

125. At the 10th meeting, the Chairman made a statement wherein he introduced a consolidated draft resolution (A/AC.109/2009/L.9) relating to the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands (see A/AC.109/2009/SR.10).

126. At the same meeting also, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.9, without a vote.

127. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.9, adopted by the Special Committee at its 10th meeting, on 19 June 2009, appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution VI).

Chapter X
Tokelau

128. The Special Committee considered the question of Tokelau at its 11th meeting, on 23 June 2009.

129. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (see A/AC.109/2009/2).

130. At the 11th meeting, on 23 June, with the consent of the Special Committee, the Ulu-o-Tokelau and the Administrator of Tokelau made statements (see A/AC.109/2009/SR.12).

131. At the same meeting, the representative of Papua New Guinea, also on behalf of Fiji, introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.15 (see A/AC.109/2009/SR.12).

132. Also at the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of Fiji, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.15, without a vote.

133. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.15, adopted by the Special Committee at its 11th meeting, on 23 June 2009, appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution V).

Chapter XI
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

134. The Special Committee considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) at its 9th and 10th meeting, on 18 and 19 June 2009.

135. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account paragraph 4 (b) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

136. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2009/13).

137. At the 9th meeting, on 18 June, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay had requested to participate in the Committee's consideration of the item. The Committee decided to accede to the requests.

138. At the same meeting, in accordance with a decision taken at its 3rd meeting, statements were made by The Honourable Richard Stevens and The Honourable Janet Robertson of the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands, Dolores Reynolds and Marcelo Luis Vernet (see A/AC.109/2009/SR.9).

139. At the same meeting also, the representative of Chile, also on behalf of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2009/L.8).

140. At the same meeting, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina made a statement (see A/AC.109/2009/SR.9).

141. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Paraguay (on behalf of MERCOSUR), Sierra Leone, China, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Cuba, Indonesia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador, Grenada and Tunisia (see A/AC.109/2009/SR.9).

142. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.8, without a vote.

143. At the 10th meeting, on 19 June, statements were made by the representatives of Saint Lucia, Mali, Brazil, Peru, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Uruguay. The representative of Grenada made a further statement (see A/AC.109/2009/SR.10).

144. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.8, adopted by the Special Committee at its 9th meeting, on 18 June 2009, reads as follows:

Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Aware that the maintenance of colonial situations is incompatible with the United Nations ideal of universal peace,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 2065 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 3160 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, 31/49 of 1 December 1976, 37/9 of 4 November 1982, 38/12 of 16 November 1983, 39/6 of 1 November 1984, 40/21 of 27 November 1985, 41/40 of 25 November 1986, 42/19 of 17 November 1987 and 43/25 of 17 November 1988, Special Committee resolutions A/AC.109/756 of 1 September 1983, A/AC.109/793 of 21 August 1984, A/AC.109/842 of 9 August 1985, A/AC.109/885 of 14 August 1986, A/AC.109/930 of 14 August 1987, A/AC.109/972 of 11 August 1988, A/AC.109/1008 of 15 August 1989, A/AC.109/1050 of 14 August 1990, A/AC.109/1087 of 14 August 1991, A/AC.109/1132 of 29 July 1992, A/AC.109/1169 of 14 July 1993, A/AC.109/2003 of 12 July 1994, A/AC.109/2033 of 13 July 1995, A/AC.109/2062 of 22 July 1996, A/AC.109/2096 of 16 June 1997, A/AC.109/2122 of 6 July 1998, A/AC.109/1999/23 of 1 July 1999, A/AC.109/2000/23 of 11 July 2000, A/AC.109/2001/25 of 29 June 2001, A/AC.109/2002/25 of 19 June 2002, A/AC.109/2003/24 of 16 June 2003, the resolution adopted on 18 June 2004, the resolution adopted on 15 June 2005, the resolution adopted on 15 June 2006, the resolution adopted on 21 June 2007, and the resolution adopted on 12 June 2008, and Security Council resolutions 502 (1982) of 3 April 1982 and 505 (1982) of 26 May 1982,

Distressed that, notwithstanding the time that has elapsed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), this prolonged dispute has not yet been settled,

Aware of the interest of the international community in the resumption by the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of their negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Expressing its preoccupation over the fact that the good level of relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom has not yet led to negotiations on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Considering that this situation should facilitate the resumption of the negotiations in order to find a peaceful solution to the dispute over sovereignty,

Reaffirming the principles of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and the peaceful settlement of international disputes,

Calling attention to the importance of the Secretary-General continuing his efforts to give full effect to the mission entrusted to him by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Reaffirming the need for the parties to take due account of the interests of the population of the islands in accordance with the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

1. *Reiterates* that the way to put an end to the special and particular colonial situation in the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is the peaceful and negotiated settlement of the dispute over sovereignty between the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

2. *Takes note* of the views expressed by the President of the Argentine Republic on the occasion of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly;

3. *Regrets* that, in spite of the widespread international support for a negotiation between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom that includes all aspects of the future of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions on this question has not yet started;

4. *Requests* the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to consolidate the current process of dialogue and cooperation through the resumption of negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25;

5. *Reiterates its firm support* for the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General in order to assist the parties in complying with the request made by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas);

6. *Decides* to keep under review the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) subject to the directives that the General Assembly has issued and may issue in that regard.

Chapter XII
Recommendations

145. The Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also its resolution 63/101 of 5 December 2008, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General,[10]

1. *Reaffirms* that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

2. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned, in accordance with their Charter obligations, to transmit or continue to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General for information purposes, subject to such limitation as security and constitutional considerations may require, statistical and other information of a technical nature relating to economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories for which they are respectively responsible, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, including the constitution, legislative act or executive order providing for the government of the Territory and the constitutional relationship of the Territory to the administering Power, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

[10] A/64/67.

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

4. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures.

Draft resolution II
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories",

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the item,[11]

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as all other relevant resolutions of the Assembly, including, in particular, resolutions 46/181 of 19 December 1991 and 55/146 of 8 December 2000,

Reaffirming the solemn obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses,

Reaffirming also that any economic or other activity that has a negative impact on the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on the exercise of their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming further that the natural resources are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location, size and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the need to promote the economic stability, diversification and strengthening of the economy of each Territory,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Conscious also that foreign economic investment, when undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in

[11] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/64/23), chap. V.

accordance with their wishes, could make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories and also to the exercise of their right to self-determination,

Concerned about any activities aimed at exploiting the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as their right to the enjoyment of their natural resources and their right to dispose of those resources in their best interest;

2. *Affirms* the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories, especially during times of economic and financial crisis;

3. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and reaffirms the legitimate rights of their peoples over their natural resources;

4. *Reaffirms* its concern about any activities aimed at the exploitation of the natural resources that are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations, in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, and of their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, and in such a way as to deprive them of their right to dispose of those resources;

5. *Reaffirms* the need to avoid any economic and other activities that adversely affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

6. *Calls once again upon* all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises;

7. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that the exploitation of the marine and other natural resources in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration is not in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and does not adversely affect the interests of the peoples of those Territories;

8. *Invites* all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples

of the Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

9. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all necessary steps to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to ensure that no discriminatory working conditions prevail in the Territories under their administration and to promote in each Territory a fair system of wages applicable to all the inhabitants without any discrimination;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of any activity that affects the exercise of the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

12. *Appeals* to trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to promote the economic well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and also appeals to the media to disseminate information about the developments in this regard;

13. *Decides* to follow the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of their peoples, including the indigenous populations, and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session.

Draft resolution III
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

Having also considered the report of the Secretary-General[12] and the report of the Economic and Social Council[13] on the item,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the item,[14]

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and the resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions, including in particular Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/15 of 24 July 2008,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in resolution 1514 (XV),

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Also welcoming the participation in the capacity of observers of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social sphere, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories,

Noting that only some specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

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[12] A/64/62.

[13] E/2009/69.

[14] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/64/23), chap. VI.

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the necessary resources for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations resolutions and decisions relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 63/103 of 5 December 2008 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[12]

2. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

4. *Reaffirms also* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

6. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their engagement with the work of the Special Committee as an important element for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), including possible participation at the regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Special Committee;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

8. *Urges* those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those territories;

10. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

(a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;

(c) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;

(d) Illegal exploitation of the marine and other natural resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

11. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full

implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

12. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

13. *Recalls* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of its resolution 574 (XXVII) of 16 May 1998,[15] calling for the necessary mechanisms for its associate members, including Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate in the special sessions of the General Assembly, subject to the rules of procedure of the Assembly, to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories originally participated in the capacity of observer, and in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies;

14. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to maintain close contact on these matters with the President of the Economic and Social Council;

15. *Recalls* the publication by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which was updated for the United Nations website on decolonization, and requests its continued updating and wide dissemination;

16. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

17. *Encourages* the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies, inter alia, with the assistance of the relevant specialized agencies;

18. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories, so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

19. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which

[15] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 21* (E/1998/41), sect. III.G.

they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

21. *Commends* the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on this question, and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

22. *Requests* the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the measures necessary to implement the resolution, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

24. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session.

Draft resolution IV
Question of New Caledonia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to New Caledonia,[16]

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection and action with respect

[16] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/64/23), chap. VIII, sect. B.

to drug abuse and trafficking, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

Noting also, in this context, the importance of equitable economic and social development, as well as continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

Noting with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region,

1. *Welcomes* the significant developments that have taken place in New Caledonia since the signing of the Nouméa Accord of 5 May 1998 by the representatives of New Caledonia and the Government of France;[17]

2. *Urges* all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia, to maintain, in the framework of the Nouméa Accord, their dialogue in a spirit of harmony, and in this context welcomes the unanimous agreement, reached in Paris on 8 December 2008, on the transfer of powers to New Caledonia in 2009 and the conduct of provincial elections in May 2009;

3. *Notes* the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord aimed at taking more broadly into account the Kanak identity in the political and social organization of New Caledonia, and welcomes, in this context, the adoption on 26 June 2008 by the Government of New Caledonia of a draft country law (*loi du pays*) on the identity symbols to be adopted by the country in implementation of the Nouméa Accord and the acceptance, on 21 October 2008, of the draft law on the anthem, motto and bank note design;

4. *Acknowledges* those provisions of the Nouméa Accord relating to control of immigration and protection of local employment, and notes that unemployment remains high among Kanaks and that recruitment of foreign mine workers continues;

5. *Notes* the concerns expressed by a group of indigenous people in New Caledonia regarding their underrepresentation in the Territory's governmental and social structures;

6. *Also notes* the concerns expressed by representatives of indigenous people regarding incessant migratory flows and the impact of mining on the environment;

7. *Takes note* of the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord to the effect that New Caledonia may become a member or associate member of certain international organizations, such as international organizations in the Pacific region, the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organization, according to their regulations;

8. *Notes* the agreement between the signatories to the Nouméa Accord that the progress made in the emancipation process shall be brought to the attention of the United Nations;

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[17] A/AC.109/2114, annex.

9. *Recalls* the fact that the administering Power invited to New Caledonia, at the time the new institutions were established, a mission of information which comprised representatives of countries of the Pacific region;

10. *Notes* the continuing strengthening of ties between New Caledonia and both the European Union and the European Development Fund in such areas as economic and trade cooperation, the environment, climate change and financial services;

11. *Calls upon* the administering Power to continue to transmit to the Secretary-General information as required under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations;

12. *Invites* all the parties involved to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all sectors of the population, according to the letter and the spirit of the Nouméa Accord, which is based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to control their destiny;

13. *Recalls with satisfaction* the efforts of the French authorities to resolve the question of voter registration by adopting, in the French Congress of Parliament, on 19 February 2007, amendments to the French Constitution allowing New Caledonia to restrict eligibility to vote in local polls to those voters registered on the 1998 electoral rolls when the Nouméa Accord was signed, thus ensuring strong representation of the Kanak population;

14. *Welcomes* all measures taken to strengthen and diversify the New Caledonian economy in all fields, and encourages further such measures in accordance with the spirit of the Matignon and Nouméa Accords;

15. *Also welcomes* the importance attached by the parties to the Matignon and Nouméa Accords to greater progress in housing, employment, training, education and health care in New Caledonia;

16. *Notes* the financial assistance rendered by the Government of France to the Territory in areas such as health, education, payment of public-service salaries and funding development schemes;

17. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the Melanesian Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous Kanak culture of New Caledonia;

18. *Notes* the positive initiatives aimed at protecting the natural environment of New Caledonia, including the "Zonéco" operation designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of New Caledonia;

19. *Welcomes* the cooperation among Australia, France and New Zealand in terms of surveillance of fishing zones, in accordance with the wishes expressed by France during the France-Oceania Summits in July 2003 and June 2006;

20. *Acknowledges* the close links between New Caledonia and the peoples of the South Pacific and the positive actions being taken by the French and territorial authorities to facilitate the further development of those links, including the development of closer relations with the countries members of the Pacific Islands Forum;

21. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the participation of New Caledonia at the 39th Summit of the Pacific Islands Forum, held in Niue from 19 to 21 August 2008, following its accession to the Forum as an associate member in October 2006;

22. *Also welcomes* the continuing high-level visits to New Caledonia by delegations from countries of the Pacific region and high-level visits by delegations from New Caledonia to countries members of the Pacific Islands Forum;

23. *Further welcomes* the cooperative attitude of other States and Territories in the region towards New Caledonia, its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

24. *Recalls* the endorsement of the report of the Forum Ministerial Committee on New Caledonia by leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum at its 36th Summit, held in Papua New Guinea in October 2005, and the continuing role of the Forum Ministerial Committee in monitoring developments in the Territory and encouraging closer regional engagements;

25. *Decides* to keep under continuous review the process unfolding in New Caledonia as a result of the signing of the Nouméa Accord;

26. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue the examination of the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of New Caledonia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session.

Draft resolution V
Question of Tokelau

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Tokelau,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to Tokelau,[18]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular General Assembly resolution 63/107 of 5 December 2008,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

Also noting with appreciation the collaborative contribution to the development of Tokelau by New Zealand and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

[18] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/63/23), chap. X.

Recalling the inauguration in 1996 of a national legislative body, the General Fono, based on village elections by universal adult suffrage and the assumption by that body in June 2003 of full responsibility for the Tokelau budget,

Noting that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and that, as a case study pointing to successful cooperation for decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

Recalling that New Zealand and Tokelau signed in November 2003 a document entitled "Joint statement of the principles of partnership", which sets out in writing, for the first time, the rights and obligations of the two partner countries,

Bearing in mind the decision of the General Fono at its meeting in November 2003, following extensive consultations undertaken in all three villages, to explore formally with New Zealand the option of self-government in free association and its decision in August 2005 to hold a referendum on self-government on the basis of a draft constitution for Tokelau and a treaty of free association with New Zealand, and its subsequent decision to hold a further referendum in October 2007,

1. *Notes* that Tokelau and New Zealand remain firmly committed to the ongoing development of Tokelau for the long-term benefit of the people of Tokelau, with particular emphasis on the further development of facilities on each atoll that meet their current requirements;

2. *Notes also* the ongoing recognition by New Zealand of the complete right of the people of Tokelau to undertake the act of self-determination when this is considered by the people of Tokelau to be appropriate;

3. *Welcomes* the progress made towards the devolution of power to the three taupulega (village councils), in particular the delegation of the Administrator's powers to the three taupulega with effect from 1 July 2004 and the assumption by each taupulega from that date of full responsibility for the management of all its public services;

4. *Recalls* the decision of the General Fono in November 2003, following extensive consultations in all three villages and a meeting of the Special Committee on the Constitution of Tokelau, to explore formally with New Zealand the option of self-government in free association, and the discussions subsequently held between Tokelau and New Zealand pursuant to the General Fono decision;

5. *Recalls also* the decision of the General Fono in August 2005 to hold a referendum on self-government on the basis of a draft constitution for Tokelau and a draft treaty of free association with New Zealand, and notes the enactment by the General Fono of rules for the referendum;

6. *Notes* that two referendums to determine the status of Tokelau, held in February 2006 and October 2007, did not produce the two-thirds majority of the valid votes cast required by the General Fono to change Tokelau's status from that of a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the administration of New Zealand;

7. *Commends* the professional and transparent conduct of both the February 2006 and October 2007 referendums, monitored by the United Nations;

8. *Acknowledges* the decision of the General Fono that consideration of any future act of self-determination by Tokelau will be deferred and that New Zealand

and Tokelau will devote renewed effort and attention to ensuring that essential services and infrastructure on the atolls of Tokelau are enhanced and strengthened, thereby ensuring an enhanced quality of life for the people of Tokelau;

9. *Also acknowledges* Tokelau's initiative in devising a strategic economic development plan for the period 2007-2010;

10. *Further acknowledges* the ongoing and consistent commitment of New Zealand to meeting the social and economic requirements of the people of Tokelau, as well as the support and cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme;

11. *Acknowledges* Tokelau's need for continued support from the international community;

12. *Recalls with satisfaction* the establishment and operation of the Tokelau International Trust Fund to support the ongoing needs of Tokelau, and calls upon Member States and international and regional agencies to contribute to the Fund and thereby lend practical support to Tokelau in overcoming the problems of smallness, isolation and lack of resources;

13. *Welcomes* the assurance of the Government of New Zealand that it will meet its obligations with respect to Tokelau;

14. *Also welcomes* the cooperative attitude of the other States and territories in the region towards Tokelau, and their support for its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

15. *Calls upon* the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue to provide assistance to Tokelau as it further develops;

16. *Welcomes* the actions taken by the administering Power to transmit information regarding the political, economic and social situation of Tokelau to the Secretary-General;

17. *Also welcomes* the commitment of both Tokelau and New Zealand to continue to work together in the interests of Tokelau and its people;

18. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Tokelau and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session.

Draft resolution VI
Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

A
General

The General Assembly,

Having considered the questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, hereinafter referred to as "the Territories",

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[19]

Recalling all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolution,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1541 (XV), containing the principles that should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing concern that more than forty-eight years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[20] there still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Conscious of the importance of continuing effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2010 and the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[7]

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options of self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Noting the stated position of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the stated position of the Government of the

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[19] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/64/23), chap. IX.

[20] Resolution 1514 (XV).

United States of America on the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration,

Noting also the constitutional developments in some Non-Self-Governing Territories affecting the internal structure of governance about which the Special Committee has received information,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Convinced also that any negotiations to determine the status of a Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of that Territory, under the aegis of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

Noting that a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories have expressed concern at the procedure followed by some administering Powers, contrary to the wishes of the Territories themselves, of amending or enacting legislation for application to the Territories, either through orders in council, in order to apply to the Territories the international treaty obligations of the administering Power, or through the unilateral application of laws and regulations,

Aware of the importance of the international financial services and tourism sectors for the economies of some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

Mindful that United Nations visiting and special missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, that some Territories have not received a United Nations visiting mission for a long time and that no visiting missions have been sent to some of the Territories, and considering the possibility of sending further visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time, in consultation with the relevant administering Powers and in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Mindful also that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the relevant administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories,

Acknowledging the regular transmission by the administering Powers to the Secretary-General of information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter,

Aware of the importance both to the Territories and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of the Territories in the work of the Committee,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at

assisting the peoples of the Territories in gaining a better understanding of the options of self-determination,

Mindful, in this connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate, and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Noting the stated positions of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories before the Special Committee and at its regional seminars,

Mindful that the 2009 Caribbean regional seminar was held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation, and, in this connection, bearing in mind the applicability to the Territories of the programmes of action or outcome documents of all United Nations world conferences and special sessions of the General Assembly in the economic and social sphere,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

Aware that the Human Rights Committee, as part of its mandate under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[21] reviews the status of the self determination process, including in small island Territories under examination by the Special Committee,

Recalling the ongoing efforts of the Special Committee in carrying out a critical review of its work with the aim of making appropriate and constructive recommendations and decisions to attain its objectives in accordance with its mandate,

Recognizing that the annual working papers prepared by the Secretariat on developments in each of the small Territories,[22] as well as the substantive documentation and information furnished by experts, scholars, non-governmental organizations and other sources, have provided important inputs to update the present resolution,

Noting the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of decolonization resolutions adopted since the declaration of the First and Second International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,[23]

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[21] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[22] A/AC.109/2009/1, 3-8, 10, 11, 14 and 16.

[23] A/64/70.

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the peoples of the Territories to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection reiterates its long-standing call for the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the peoples of the Territories and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between the Non-Self-Governing Territories and their respective administering Powers;

5. *Requests* the administering Powers to continue to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Special Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in the Territories, and encourages the administering Powers to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territories;

7. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territories, and, as a priority, to mitigate the effects of the current global financial crisis where possible, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, towards the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

8. *Requests* the Territories and the administering Powers to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in the Territories and to provide assistance to those Territories, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

9. *Welcomes* the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional activities, including the work of regional organizations;

10. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[7] in particular by expediting the application of the work programme for the decolonization of each

Non-Self-Governing Territory, on a case-by-case basis, as well as by ensuring that periodic analyses are undertaken of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration in each Territory, and that the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on each Territory should fully reflect developments in those Territories;

11. *Urges* Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to usher in a world free of colonialism within the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee in its endeavours towards that noble goal;

12. *Stresses* the importance of the various constitutional exercises in the respective Territories administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, and led by the territorial Governments, designed to address internal constitutional structures within the present territorial arrangements, and decides to follow closely the developments concerning the future political status of those Territories;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly on a regular basis on the implementation of decolonization resolutions adopted since the declaration of the First and Second International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism;

14. *Reiterates its request* that the Human Rights Committee collaborate with the Special Committee, within the framework of its mandate on the right to self-determination as contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[21] with the aim of exchanging information, given that the Human Rights Committee is mandated to review the situation, including political and constitutional developments, in many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are within the purview of the Special Committee;

15. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to collaborate with the Economic and Social Council and its relevant subsidiary intergovernmental bodies, within the framework of their respective mandates, with the aim of exchanging information on developments in those Non-Self-Governing Territories which are reviewed by those bodies;

16. *Also requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

B
Individual territories

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

I. American Samoa

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on American Samoa[24] and other relevant information,

[24] A/AC.109/2009/4.

Aware that under United States law the Secretary of the Interior has administrative jurisdiction over American Samoa,[25]

Noting the position of the administering Power and the statements made by representatives of American Samoa in regional seminars expressing satisfaction with the Territory's present relationship with the United States of America,

Aware of the work of the Future Political Status Study Commission, completed in 2006, and the release of its report, with recommendations, in January 2007, and the Governor's announcement in early 2009 that the report and recommendations of the Commission would be laid before a constitutional convention sometime in 2009,

Noting, in that regard, the information contained in the paper provided by the Chairman of the Future Political Status Study Commission and distributed at the 2008 Pacific regional seminar requesting the Special Committee to review the Territory's status as a Non-Self-Governing Territory, with a view to accepting the Territory's future political status once chosen by its people,

Acknowledging the indication by the territorial Government that certain cost-of-living expenses, such as inflation, is a serious cause for concern,

Aware that American Samoa continues to be the only United States Territory to receive financial assistance from the administering Power for the operations of the territorial Government, and calling upon the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in the diversification of its economy,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the territorial Government and legislature with regard to the recommendations made by the Future Political Status Study Commission, in preparation for a constitutional convention sometime in 2009, addressing issues related to the future status of American Samoa;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning the intention of holding a constitutional convention sometime in 2009, if requested;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the invitation previously extended to the Special Committee by the Governor of American Samoa to send a visiting mission to the Territory, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chairperson of the Special Committee to take all the necessary steps to that end;

4. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning a public awareness programme recommended by the Future Political Status Study Commission in its 2007 report, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the territorial Government to address employment and cost-of-living issues in various economic sectors;

[25] United States Congress, 1929 (48 U.S.C. Sec. 1661, 45 Stat. 1253), and Secretary's Order 2657, Department of the Interior, United States of America, 1951, as amended.

II. Anguilla

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Anguilla[26] and other relevant information,

Recalling the holding of the 2003 Caribbean regional seminar in Anguilla, hosted by the territorial Government and made possible by the administering Power, the first time that the seminar had been held in a Non-Self-Governing Territory,

Taking note of the statement of the representative of Anguilla at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May 2009,

Taking note also of the internal constitutional review process resumed by the territorial Government in 2006, the work of the Constitutional and Electoral Reform Commission, which prepared its report in August 2006, and the holding of public and other consultative meetings in 2007 on proposed constitutional amendments to be presented to the administering Power, as well as the 2008 decision to set up a drafting team consisting of territorial Government officials, members of the House of Assembly and lawyers to draft a new constitution, to be based on internal self-government for public consultation and subsequent discussion with the administering Power, with the aim of seeking full internal self-government,

Aware that the Government intends to continue its commitment to high-end tourism and the implementation of various regulations in the financial services sector,

Noting the participation of the Territory as an associate member in the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Constitutional and Electoral Reform Commission and its report of 2006, the holding of a public forum in April 2008 to address constitutional reform issues and the subsequent agreement to seek full internal self-government, short of political independence and the setting up of a drafting group, with the aim of making recommendations to the administering Power on proposed changes to the Constitution of the Territory, using the concept of internal self-government;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory in its current efforts with regard to advancing the internal constitutional review exercise, if requested;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the previously expressed desire of the territorial Government for a visiting mission by the Special Committee, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission, if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chairperson of the Special Committee to take all the necessary steps to that end;

4. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public consultative outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

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[26] A/AC.109/2009/11.

III. Bermuda

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Bermuda[27] and other relevant information,

Taking note also of the statement of the representative of Bermuda at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May 2009,

Conscious of the different viewpoints of the political parties on the future status of the Territory, and noting a recent survey by local media on the matter,

Recalling the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to Bermuda in 2005 at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power, which provided information to the people of the Territory on the role of the United Nations in the process of self-determination, on the legitimate political status options as clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and on the experiences of other small States that have achieved a full measure of self-government,

1. *Stresses* the importance of the 2005 report of the Bermuda Independence Commission, which provides a thorough examination of the facts surrounding independence, and regrets that the plans for public meetings and the presentation of a Green Paper to the House of Assembly followed by a White Paper outlining the policy proposals for an independent Bermuda have so far not materialized;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

IV. British Virgin Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the British Virgin Islands[28] and other relevant information,

Taking note also of the statement of the representative of the British Virgin Islands at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May 2009,

Recalling the 1993 report of the Constitutional Commissioners, the 1996 debate on the report in the Legislative Council of the Territory, the establishment of the Constitutional Review Commission in 2004, the completion in 2005 of its report providing recommendations on internal constitutional modernization and the debate held in 2005 on the report in the Legislative Council, as well as the negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government, which resulted in the adoption of the new Constitution of the Territory in 2007,

Noting that the 2007 Constitution of the British Virgin Islands provides for a Governor, who maintains reserved powers in the Territory, to be appointed by the administering Power,

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[27] A/AC.109/2009/7.

[28] A/AC.109/2009/1.

Noting also the view expressed in the aforementioned statement made by the representative of the British Virgin Islands at the 2009 Caribbean regional seminar, that, building on the conclusion of the recent internal constitutional modernization exercise, the Territory's focus was on economic development prior to a search for independence,

Noting further the impact of the global financial crisis on the Territory's financial and tourism services sectors,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

1. *Welcomes* the new Constitution of the British Virgin Islands, which took effect in June 2007, and notes the continued need expressed by the territorial Government for minor constitutional amendments in the years to come;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Territory to focus its economic base more on local ownership and on professional service industries other than financial services;

V. Cayman Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Cayman Islands[29] and other relevant information,

Aware of the 2002 report of the Constitutional Modernization Review Commission, which contained a draft constitution for the consideration of the people of the Territory, the 2003 draft constitution offered by the administering Power and the subsequent discussions between the Territory and the administering Power in 2003, and the reopening of discussions between the administering Power and the territorial Government on internal constitutional modernization, in 2006, which resulted in the finalization of a new draft constitution in February 2009 and its subsequent acceptance by referendum in May,

Noting with interest the establishment of the Cayman Islands Constitutional Review Secretariat, which began its work in March 2007 in support of the Territory's constitution modernization initiative, which comprises four phases with regard to constitutional reform, including research and publicity, consultation and public education, a referendum on reform proposals, and negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government,

Welcoming the participation of the Territory as a new associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Acknowledging the indication by the territorial Government that certain cost-of-living issues, such as inflation, continue to be a cause for concern,

1. *Welcomes* the finalization of a new draft constitution in February 2009 and its subsequent acceptance by referendum in May;

[29] A/AC.109/2009/8.

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public awareness outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the territorial Government to address cost-of-living issues in various economic sectors;

VI. Guam

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Guam[30] and other relevant information,

Aware that under United States law the relations between the territorial Government and the federal Government in all matters that are not the programme responsibility of another federal department or agency are under the general administrative supervision of the Secretary of the Interior,[31]

Recalling that, in a referendum held in 1987, the registered and eligible voters of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for a greater measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the Chamorro people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

Recalling also the previously expressed requests by the elected representatives and non-governmental organizations of the Territory that Guam not be removed from the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with which the Special Committee is concerned, pending the self-determination of the Chamorro people and taking into account their legitimate rights and interests,

Aware that negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act ended in 1997 and that Guam has subsequently established a non-binding plebiscite process for a self-determination vote by the eligible Chamorro voters,

Cognizant of the importance that the administering Power continues to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

Noting that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

Aware of deep concerns expressed by civil society and others, including at the meeting of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee of the General Assembly in October 2008, regarding the potential social and other impacts of the impending transfer of additional military personnel of the administering Power to the Territory,

[30] A/AC.109/2009/16.

[31] United States Congress, Organic Act of Guam, 1950, as amended.

Aware also of the austerity and fiscal measures undertaken by the territorial Government since 2007, when the Governor declared a financial "state of emergency", and of subsequent developments,

Conscious that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland,

1. *Calls once again upon* the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the Chamorro people as supported by Guam voters in the referendum of 1987 and as subsequently provided for in Guam law regarding Chamorro self-determination efforts, and encourages the administering Power and the territorial Government to enter into negotiations on the matter;

2. *Requests* the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to transfer land to the original landowners of the Territory, to continue to recognize and to respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people of Guam and to take all measures necessary to address the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the question of immigration;

3. *Also requests* the administering Power to cooperate in establishing programmes for the sustainable development of the economic activities and enterprises of the Territory, noting the special role of the Chamorro people in the development of Guam;

4. *Recalls* the previously made request by the elected Governor to the administering Power to lift restrictions to allow for foreign airlines to transport passengers between Guam and the United States of America to provide for a more competitive market and increased visitor arrivals;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

VII. Montserrat

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Montserrat[32] and other relevant information,

Taking note also of the statement of the representative of Montserrat at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May 2009,

Recalling the 2002 report of the Constitutional Review Commission, the convening of a committee of the House of Assembly in 2005 to review the report and the subsequent discussions between the administering Power and the territorial Government on internal constitutional advancement and devolution of power,

Noting that the negotiating process with the administering Power on a draft constitution giving greater autonomy to the territorial Government proceeded during 2008, and that, since March 2009, the administering Power has accorded stronger emphasis to the redevelopment of the Territory,

[32] A/AC.109/2009/6.

Aware that Montserrat continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

Recalling the statements made by participants at the 2007 Caribbean regional seminar encouraging the administering Power to commit sufficient resources to meet the Territory's special needs,

Noting with concern the continued consequences of the volcanic eruption, which led to the evacuation of three quarters of the Territory's population to safe areas of the island and to areas outside the Territory, which continues to have enduring consequences for the economy of the island,

Acknowledging the continued assistance provided to the Territory by States members of the Caribbean Community, in particular Antigua and Barbuda, which has offered safe refuge and access to educational and health facilities, as well as employment for thousands who have left the Territory,

Noting the continuing efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to deal with the consequences of the volcanic eruption,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of the territorial Government to continue to negotiate improvements to the Constitution of the Territory so as to preserve its ability to move towards full self-government, notes the efforts of the administering Power to support the redevelopment of the Territory, and encourages them to mutually reinforce their efforts;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Calls upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and other organizations, to continue to provide assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption;

VIII. Pitcairn

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Pitcairn[33] and other relevant information,

Taking into account the unique character of Pitcairn in terms of population and area,

Noting that the internal review of the Constitution of the Territory is still deferred,

Aware that the administering Power and the territorial Government are in the process of restructuring the relationship between the Governor's Office and the territorial Government, based on consultations with the people of the Territory, and that Pitcairn continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

[33] A/AC.109/2009/3.

1. *Welcomes* all efforts by the administering Power that would devolve operational responsibilities to the territorial Government, with a view to expanding self-government;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory and to continue its discussions with the territorial Government on how best to support economic security in Pitcairn;

IX. Saint Helena

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Saint Helena[34] and other relevant information,

Taking note also of the statement of the representative of Saint Helena at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May 2009,

Taking into account the unique character of Saint Helena in terms of its population, geography and natural resources,

Noting the internal constitutional review process led by the territorial Government since 2001, the completion of a draft constitution following negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government in 2003 and 2004, the consultative poll with regard to a new constitution, held in Saint Helena in May 2005, and the subsequent preparation of a revised draft constitution and its publication in June 2008 for further public consultation,

Noting in that regard the importance of the right to nationality for Saint Helenians and their previously expressed request that the right, in principle, be included in a new constitution,

Aware that Saint Helena continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

Aware also of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to improve the socio-economic conditions of the population of Saint Helena, in particular in the areas of employment and transport and communications infrastructure,

Noting the efforts of the Territory to address the problem of unemployment on the island and the joint action of the administering Power and the territorial Government in dealing with it,

Noting also the importance of improving the infrastructure and accessibility of Saint Helena,

Noting further in this regard the administering Power's decision in December 2008 to pause the negotiations on the Saint Helena airport,

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[34] A/AC.109/2009/5.

1. *Welcomes* the Territory's publication of a new draft constitution for further public consultation, and calls upon the administering Power to take into account the previously expressed concerns of Saint Helenians with regard to the right to nationality;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Requests* the administering Power and relevant international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the Territory's socio-economic development challenges, including unemployment, and limited transport and communications infrastructure;

4. *Notes* the decision by the administering Power to consult on whether an airport is the most appropriate option for access to Saint Helena in the current economic climate, and calls upon the administering Power to take into account the unique geographical character of Saint Helena in the process of consultation;

X. Turks and Caicos Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Turks and Caicos Islands[35] and other relevant information,

Taking note also of the statement of the representative of the Turks and Caicos Islands at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May 2009,

Recalling the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2006, at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power,

Recalling also the 2002 report of the Constitutional Modernization Review Body, and acknowledging the Constitution agreed between the administering Power and the territorial Government, which entered into force in 2006,

Noting that the 2006 Constitution of the Turks and Caicos Islands provides for a Governor, who maintains reserved powers in the Territory, to be appointed by the administering Power,

Acknowledging the impact that the global financial crisis has had on tourism and related real estate development, the mainstays of the Territory's economy,

1. *Recalls* the Constitution of the Territory, which took effect in 2006, and notes the view of the territorial Government that there remains scope for a degree of delegation of the Governor's power to the Territory so as to secure greater autonomy;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

[35] A/AC.109/2009/10.

3. *Notes with concern* the ongoing situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands, and also notes the need to restore good governance and sound financial management in the Territory;

4. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the Government addressing the need for attention to be paid to the enhancement of social cohesion across the Territory;

XI. United States Virgin Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the United States Virgin Islands[36] and other relevant information,

Aware that under United States law the relations between the territorial Government and the federal Government in all matters not the programme responsibility of another federal department or agency are under the general administrative supervision of the Secretary of the Interior, [37]

Aware also of the ongoing Constitutional Convention, the fifth attempt of the Territory to review the existing Revised Organic Act, which organizes its internal governance arrangements, as well as the various related efforts in implementing a public education programme on the constitution, as outlined in a statement by a participant from the Territory presented at the 2009 Caribbean regional seminar,

Cognizant that the draft constitution is expected to be finalized by the territorial Government in 2009 and forwarded to the administering Power for review and action,

Cognizant also of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

1. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Constitutional Convention in 2007, and requests the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals, in particular the successful conclusion of the ongoing internal Constitutional Convention exercise;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to facilitate the process for approval of the territorial draft constitution in the United States Congress, once agreed upon by the territorial Government;

3. *Also requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning a public education programme, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

4. *Reiterates its call* for the inclusion of the Territory in regional programmes of the United Nations Development Programme, consistent with the participation of other Non-Self-Governing Territories.

[36] A/AC.109/2009/14.

[37] United States Congress, Revised Organic Act, 1954.

Draft resolution VII
Dissemination of information on decolonization

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization,[38]

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular Assembly resolution 63/109 of 5 December 2008,

Recognizing the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options of self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to implementing the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[7]

Reiterating the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

Recognizing the role played by the administering Powers in transmitting information to the Secretary-General in accordance with the terms of Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing also the role of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, through the United Nations information centres, in the dissemination of information at the regional level on the activities of the United Nations,

Recalling the issuance by the Department of Public Information, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Aware of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. *Approves* the activities in the field of dissemination of information on decolonization undertaken by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization, in particular the publication, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/129 of 14 December 2006, of the information leaflet entitled "What the UN Can Do to Assist Non-Self-Governing Territories", which was updated for the United Nations website on decolonization in May 2009, and encourages continued updating and wide dissemination of the information leaflet;

[38] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/64/23), chap. III.

2. *Considers it important* to continue and expand its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options of self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to this end, requests the Department of Public Information through the United Nations information centres in the relevant regions to actively engage and seek new and innovative ways to disseminate material to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further enhance the information provided on the United Nations decolonization website and continue to include the full series of reports of the regional seminars on decolonization, the statements and scholarly papers presented at those seminars and links to the full series of reports of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

4. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts to update web-based information on the assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

5. *Requests* the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee and to continue their efforts to take measures through all the media available, including publications, radio and television, as well as the Internet, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, inter alia:

(a) To develop procedures to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Territories, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(c) To explore further the idea of a programme of collaboration with the decolonization focal points of territorial Governments, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, to help improve the exchange of information;

(d) To encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(e) To encourage the involvement of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(f) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Requests* all States, including the administering Powers, to accelerate the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine this question and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution VIII
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[39]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all its subsequent resolutions concerning the implementation of the Declaration, the most recent of which was resolution 63/110 of 5 December 2008, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, by which it declared the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the need to examine ways to ascertain the wishes of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the basis of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization,

Recognizing that the eradication of colonialism has been one of the priorities of the United Nations and continues to be one of its priorities for the decade that began in 2001,

Reconfirming the need to take measures to eliminate colonialism by 2010, as called for in its resolution 55/146,

Reiterating its conviction of the need for the eradication of colonialism, as well as racial discrimination and violations of basic human rights,

Noting with satisfaction the achievements of the Special Committee in contributing to the effective and complete implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Stressing the importance of the formal participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee,

Noting with satisfaction the cooperation and active participation of administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee, and encouraging the others also to do so,

Noting that the Caribbean regional seminar was held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May 2009,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 1514 (XV) and all other resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including its resolution 55/146, by which it declared the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon the administering Powers, in accordance with those resolutions, to take all steps necessary to enable the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned to exercise fully as soon as possible their right to self-determination, including independence;

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[39] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23* and addendum (A/64/23 and Add.1).

2. *Reaffirms once again* that the existence of colonialism in any form or manifestation, including economic exploitation, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;[40]

3. *Reaffirms its determination* to continue to take all steps necessary to bring about the complete and speedy eradication of colonialism and the faithful observance by all States of the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

4. *Affirms once again its support* for the aspirations of the peoples under colonial rule to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

5. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to develop and finalize, before the end of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

6. *Recalls with satisfaction* the professional, open and transparent conduct of both the February 2006 and the October 2007 referendums to determine the future status of Tokelau, monitored by the United Nations;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend, as appropriate, to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(d) To develop and finalize, before the end of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation

[40] Resolution 217 A (III).

of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(e) To continue to dispatch visiting and special missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To take all steps necessary to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(h) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;[41]

8. *Recognizes* that the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism" represents an important legislative authority for the attainment of self-government by the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and that the case-by-case assessment of the attainment of self-government in each Territory can make an important contribution to this process;

9. *Calls upon* all States, in particular the administering Powers, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to give effect within their respective spheres of competence to the recommendations of the Special Committee for the implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that economic and other activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration do not adversely affect the interests of the peoples but instead promote development, and to assist them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

11. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources, and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the relevant administering Power to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

12. *Urges* all States, directly and through their action in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to provide moral and material assistance as needed to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requests the administering Powers to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economies of those Territories;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other

[41] See resolution 54/91.

assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue to do so, as appropriate, after they exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

14. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate visiting missions to the Territories;

15. *Calls upon* all the administering Powers to cooperate fully in the work of the Special Committee and to participate formally in its future sessions;

16. *Approves* the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 2009,[39] including the programme of work envisaged for 2010;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with the facilities and services required for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as the other resolutions and decisions on decolonization adopted by the General Assembly and the Special Committee.

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